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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1996

Congress alleges Israel stealing US secrets

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

ISRAEL is one of several countries allied with the US that conduct economic espionage to gain access to new weapons technology through companies they own in America, according to a congressional investigative report.

The report by the General Accounting Office states that "Country A," which *The Washington Times* yesterday said referred to Israel, "routinely resorts to state-sponsored espionage, using covert intelligence-collection techniques to obtain sensitive US economic information and technology."

The FBI and CIA, according to the report, consider the technology leaks "a significant threat to national security."

Israelis in the US were reportedly involved in stealing "sensitive technology" applicable to the manufacturing of artillery gun tubes, and in obtaining secret information by monitoring the Pentagon's communications, the newspaper reported.

(Continued on Page 20)



Prime Minister Shimon Peres lays a wreath yesterday at a memorial ceremony at the Geffot Junction for the 35 people killed in the coastal road bus massacre 18 years ago. Story, Page 2.

Beilin: Arabs know capital stays united

'Peres halted exploratory talks last fall'

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SOURCES close to the talks between Minister Yossi Beilin and leading PLO official Mahmoud Abbas yesterday voiced dismay that Prime Minister Shimon Peres had pulled the plug on their "pre-final status" exploratory talks after assuming office last fall.

More than a year of secret talks, headed by Beilin and Abbas, resulted in a call for the establishment of a Palestinian state in return for Israel keeping both Jerusalem united and areas where close to 100,000 settlers live.

One source called this a "very promising opening for final status talks for both sides."

"This could be historic and critical for Israel, as it enters final status talks this spring, but so far Peres is saying it is a footnote to history. He does not want a Palestinian state, but confederation with Jordan, and that is why he ended the talks," the source said.

There are conflicting views whether PLO Chairman Yasser

Arafat gave his backing to the principles.

The two sides engaged in drafting and exchanging many papers, and it appears there is a joint unsigned draft. However, in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* last night, Beilin denied there is any agreement. He refused to elaborate.

"Palestinian aspirations and traditional Israeli concerns can be reconciled," according to the source. "The Palestinians can have a demilitarized state in which they would have control of immigration. In exchange, we don't have to return to the 1967 borders, but can maintain our military presence on the Jordan River indefinitely."

Under the deal, he said, "Israel would retain sovereignty over united Jerusalem in its current boundaries and can add Ma'aleh Adumim, Givon, and Givat Ze'ev to the city. Yet the Palestinians would be able to take over villages outside Jerusalem, such

as Abu Dis, Eizariya, or even Ramallah and call it al-Kuds.

"Palestinians might retain their right to discuss other parts of Jerusalem, but they know this could take a generation."

Beilin said that "Jerusalem will not be partitioned; they have come to understand that it will remain our undivided capital. Israel will be able to maintain most of the settlers, but not most of the settlements, under its sovereignty. We will not keep most of the West Bank. There is a reason that I can talk to the settlers and tell them that most of them will be allowed to remain under Israeli sovereignty."

Beilin said the main points of commonality with Abbas were reached during several meetings in Jerusalem. Apart from those meetings, two confidants of Beilin, Prof. Yair Hirschfeld and Dr. Ron Pundak, held a host of other meetings here and abroad over a year's time. Other participants included former top Peres aide Nimrod Novik and London-based Palestinian

(Continued on Page 20)

Sarid elected Meretz leader West Bank, Gaza closure lifted

MICHAL YUDELMAN

ON LEVY

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid was unanimously elected Meretz chairman yesterday by the movement's 900 council members.

The council also bid farewell to outgoing chairman Shulamit Aloni, who is retiring from political life after 31 years in the Knesset. Aloni officially announced she would not set up an independent party to run in the elections, and led Meretz leaders to believe they could count on her support in the campaign.

Aloni was warmly received with applause, hugs, and kisses.

In her address, she told the council members: "At one time I considered forming another party, with the very large support of highly respected, well-known, and dear people. There was also considerable financial support for this. But I felt that I must not do it."

She hinted at her anger toward Meretz leaders and the complaints against her leadership, noting, "I was told that I simply wasn't there. And one person said I had gone abroad and played tennis. I admit I like playing tennis, but I don't have the time for it. I was abroad, and I'm sorry I wasn't asked why. I managed to double the budget from the

(Continued on Page 20)

THE closure clamped on the West Bank and Gaza Strip on February 12 to prevent suicide bombings was lifted at 4 a.m. this morning.

The IDF gave no reason for the decision to allow tens of thousands of Palestinian laborers back into Israel.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said when the closure was imposed that Israel had information Islamic militants were planning to avenge the assassination of bombmaker Yihye Ayyash after the 40-day mourning period was over.

Senior military sources said that since the closure was imposed, the Palestinian Police has conducted

Labor launches battle against Netanyahu

SARAH HONIG

THE Labor campaign team has decided to launch a personal onslaught against Likud prime ministerial candidate Binyamin Netanyahu, in which he is to be described as unfit to lead the country and even lacking the confidence of his own party's members.

The decision on the Netanyahu strategy was reached in the Labor campaign team's first session at Kibbutz Shefayim, just prior to the weekly political bureau session. Attending were ministers Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Ehud Barak, Haim Ramon, Moshe Shal, and party Secretary-General Nissim Zvili, some of whom spoke to reporters between meetings.

Ramon launched the offensive by declaring that, "Even Bibi's own fellow Likud members know now that it was a fatal error to entrust him with their party's leadership and it would be a far graver error yet to let him near the helm of state. If this is how his friends feel, then the public can hardly be expected to vote for him. Even the Likud members know there is no one better and more deserving to run the country than Peres. The bottom line is that the Likud has no candidate."

Barak said "Netanyahu and Peres are simply not of

(Continued on Page 20)

Agudat Yisrael okays bid for united religious ticket

HERB KEINON

THE religious parties were buzzing yesterday with talks of merger, as Agudat Yisrael gave the green light to the idea of a united religious front, and Meimad and the National Religious Party confirmed they are discussing the formation of a joint religious Zionist list.

Agudat Yisrael's daily *Hama-dia*, reporting on Wednesday's meeting of the party's Council of Sages, wrote that the council called for a union of all forces in the Torah-observant camp for the upcoming elections, "during which the future of Torah Judaism in Israel will, to a large extent, be decided."

Avishai Shitochhammer, the council's secretary, confirmed that the rabbis had given the nod to efforts to form a united religious front. As to whether the council will actively push the issue, he said the fact they have agreed to hold a meeting on the issue is itself a "push."

Shitochhammer said that such a front would be possible only if Degel Hatorah, Shas, and the National

(Continued on Page 20)

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Meridor denies reports of rift inside Likud

ASSERTING that the Likud is united and "moving ahead together under Bibi Netanyahu," Likud MK Dan Meridor blasted the press for "unbridled exaggeration in asserting there is a row inside the Likud."

"Marginal nuances are blown grossly out of proportion," he said. "It will do them no good. The Likud is united. We are moving ahead together under Bibi Netanyahu and we will win."

Netanyahu and Meridor issued a joint statement yesterday denying their relations are strained.

Meridor, according to the statement, will assume a leading role on the Likud campaign-strategy team.

At the same time, Netanyahu admonished party director-general Avigdor Lieberman for telling a local paper that "Meridor is seeking to sabotage the agreement with Tsomet. As always, he leaves the dirty work to others to prepare a coup against Netanyahu."

Meridor told students at Tel Aviv's Herzliya High School yesterday that he "never opposed

the deal with Tsomet and only asked that its electoral advantages be examined."

The unusual communique by Netanyahu and Meridor came after banner headlines in several papers claiming that Netanyahu had excluded Meridor and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert from a list of preferred primary candidates.

The episode began last Friday in Ra'anana, where a number of Likud branch heads from the Sharon region met to put together a preferred list. The branch heads were all supporters of Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau in his bitterly contested battle against Yossi Olmert, the Jerusalem mayor's brother.

The fact that Meridor and Ehud Olmert have backed Yossi Olmert's candidacy led the local branch heads to delete their names from the list they drew up.

"This had absolutely nothing to do with Netanyahu or anyone close to him. It would be madness

SARAH HONIG

for Bibi to play around with such lists. They could only do harm and no one can control 200,000 party members," argued MK Tzahi Hanegbi, often described as Netanyahu's right hand man.

"What makes me wonder, though, is the fact that the press never checked the story out, blew it out of proportion, and persistently refused to give any credence to denials."

Hanegbi maintains that "This isn't the first such instance. They tried to build up tension between Netanyahu and Benny Begin, Ar-

iel Sharon, Yitzhak Mordechai, and Rafael Eitan - all to no avail. Now comes this latest concoction and the relentless harping on a totally local incident. It makes one wonder about just how impartial, objective, and fair our press really is."

According to a Tsemah poll commissioned by Likud members who want to remain anonymous, in a contest for the premiership, Meridor would receive 42% of the vote, compared to Shimon Peres's 48%, Channel 1 reported last night.

Likud sticks with March 26

THE Likud will not move up its primary elections - it can't afford the cost. As stated, they will be held on March 26.

After elections were brought forward from October to May, pressure within the party to move up the primaries grew. This increased when Labor moved its primaries from June to April 17 and then to March 25. That Labor chose to hold its primaries a day before the Likud's was seen as a deliberate move to steal media attention. The Likud considered moving its primaries up to March 18. However, after some bookkeeping the party leadership decided to stay with the original date. Sarah Honig



Kach activist Noam Federman is led into Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday, where he was sentenced to 13 months in prison for aggravated assault on a police officer and violating movement restrictions imposed upon him by the IDF. (Brian Hentler)

Peres: No settlements will be sacrificed for peace

DAVID RUDGE and Nim

NO settlement will be dismantled in a final agreement with the Palestinians, Prime Minister Shimon Peres declared yesterday.

Addressing a Labor Party meeting in Shefayim, Peres asserted that Jordan is Israel's security border. "We want peace without unnecessary risks and no foreign army will cross the Jordan River," he said. "I don't see a need to remove any settlement and the settlements in the Jordan Valley will also remain in place."

Peres added that he'd prefer a "Jordanian-Palestinian solution."

On the Syrian front, Peres said he is seeking a mandate to negotiate with Damascus and that once a peace agreement is reached, he would bring it to the people to

ratify in a referendum.

"This has an additional advantage in that it obligates us to negotiate a deal that the people will approve," he said. "We want peace with security, political and economic substance, and in my opinion [Syrian President Hafez] Assad has reached the conclusion that he needs peace."

Later, in a meeting with Moslem leaders in Kalansuwa to mark the Id al-Fitr holiday, Peres said Israel would achieve a comprehensive peace with all Arab countries in the next four years.

"We have made peace with Jordan and we are also very serious about the matter of peace with Syria and with Lebanon," he said.

"I believe Assad wants peace. We will make peace, not on paper and not in election propaganda."

"We will make real peace with all the Arab countries in the coming four years," said Peres who visited the home of Kadi Ahmed Natour.

Peres maintained that no Arab country has done as much for the Palestinian people as Israel. "We did this because we also promised that there are moral considerations and not everything in the world is force," he said.

He later addressed hundreds of Israeli Arab council heads and dignitaries in Herzliya at a reception to mark the end of the Mos-

lem festival.

Peres was accompanied by ministers Ehud Barak, Uzi Baram, Shimon Shetreet, and Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dagan, who stressed there would be no negotiations with the Palestinians on permanent arrangements until after the elections.

The prime minister also participated in the memorial service at Gelliot Junction for those killed in the coastal road bus massacre 18 years ago.

"Egged has always been a target of terror and has stood up to the threat with courage," Peres said. "Egged never gave up on any bus line, any destination, and by enduring these difficult tests we have arrived on the road to peace."

Palestinian Police releases editor after 14 hours

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Police released the editor of a Palestinian newspaper at midnight yesterday, 14 hours after ordering him to go to the offices of the Preventive Security Service (PSS) in Jericho to clarify an article he had written linking the PA with a discredited former General Security Service operative.

Assad Assad, editor of the Ramallah-based *Bilad*, on Sunday published a translation of an article, that appeared in the financial paper *Globes*, linking former GSS operative Yossi Ginosar

with Mohammed Rashid, a Palestinian Authority economics official.

Both men are described as agents who reap high commissions by offering monopolies to selected Israeli companies chosen to work in the autonomous areas.

Ginosar was barred by the High Court from holding government office, because he was involved in the illegal use of force and cover-ups while in the GSS. PPS spokesman Abed Aloun

told Assad by phone that he was to come down to Jericho under instructions from Gaza. After being told that the article claiming the PA had economic connections with Ginosar was not true, he was released.

Bilad has shown more independence than that other PLO newspapers, and has published detailed stories about the arrest of *Al-Kuds* journalist Maher Alami for five days in December and the arrest of human rights activist Bassem Eid for one day last month.

Palestinians: Halt building of settlements and roads

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIANS yesterday called for an end to construction of settlements and roads in the territories, at a meeting of politicians and clergy in Bethlehem.

The meeting of the Islamic and National Committee was originally called to protest the building of a wall opposite Rachel's Tomb, narrowing the main road from Bethlehem to Jerusalem.

Palestinians were incensed by the wall, which seemed designed to prevent travel to Jerusalem. The IDF says two lanes, currently closed, will reopen when the wall is completed.

According to cartographer Khalil Tufajki, Israel has expro-

riated land to build hundreds of kilometers of bypass roads, separating and enclosing Palestinian towns. "When I look at the map I see cautions," Tufajki said.

He also said 20,000 housing units were recently built or are planned in the greater Jerusalem area.

Among those present at the conference, chaired by Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo, were council members Hanan Ashrawi and Salah Taamari, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, and Jerusalem Mufti Ibrahim Sabri.

A statement at the end of the meeting called for "a peaceful and daily mass movement ... to block settlement activities."

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources said there are no plans to delay the final status talks, scheduled to begin by May 4, to after the Israeli elections. No agreements have been reached on final status issues, they said.

In Kalkilya, several thousand Palestinians rallied against the peace process yesterday, setting fire to a mock Israeli bus and carrying empty coffins symbolically meant for future suicide bombers.

Winning numbers & cards

In last night's Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 224556 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 515174 won a car.

Tickets numbered 360027, 584851, 142126, 111333, 345791, 632246, 288561 and 593191 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 52115, 81651, 94590, 28084, 06610, 52396, 37686, 54783, 72301, 91021, 32682, 33202, 32954, 62343, 23601 80187, 18974, 24901 and 36389 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 489, 251, 457, 872, and 316 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 44, 02, 42, 51 and 10 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 0 and 9 won NIS 8.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance Card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, jack of hearts, queen of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

Wrong turn lands couple in jail

A Haifa couple got lost on their way home from a political meeting late Wednesday night and made a U-turn, accidentally running up on the curb outside the home of Internal Security Minister Moshe Shalal.

Shlomo Amsalem, 29, a computer engineer, and his wife Edit, thereupon aroused the suspicions of Shalal's security detail. Shortly afterward, a police car pulled up behind them and the driver ordered them to pull over.

They were arrested, questioned all night, then released. Amsalem said they were asked numerous questions about their political beliefs, which he refused to answer.

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Man held on suspicion he threatened Peres

ALON Richtman of Haifa was arrested on suspicion he left a telephone message that Prime Minister Shimon Peres "deserves a bullet in the head," police said yesterday. Richtman is accused of leaving the threatening message on the answering machine of Likud MK Limor Livnat, Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said. It is unclear why he called Livnat. AP

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Tapuah man allegedly shot at Palestinians

HERB KEINON

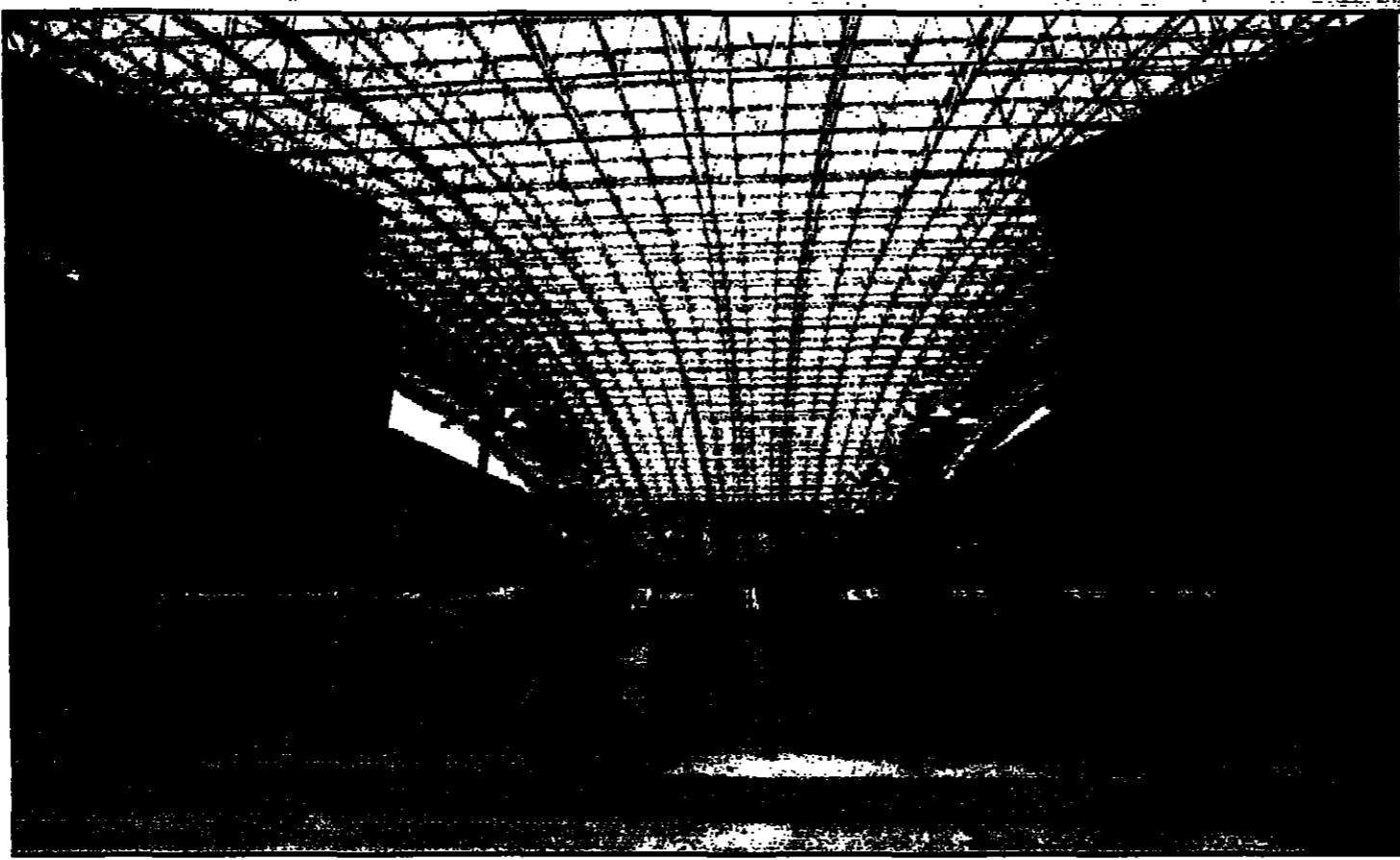
DAVID Singer, 26, of Tapuah, was arrested yesterday for alleged involvement in three incidents of shooting at Palestinians or Palestinian property from mid-1995 to early 1996.

Singer was arrested last week for allegedly threatening Arab shepherds. The next day he was released on bail, with restrictions placed on his movement.

The police also took his weapon for ballistic tests, which - according to spokesman Boaz Goldenberg - linked the weapon to the three shooting incidents.

Singer was arrested yesterday morning after seeking permission from the police to travel abroad for his brother's wedding.

According to Goldenberg, Singer is suspected of involvement in shooting up solar water heaters in the village of Urif near Yitzhar, of shooting at a car in Burin, and of shooting at a mosque in Halhoul.



Hashalom Station, the second of five planned train stations along the Ayalon Highway in central Tel Aviv, will open to the public tomorrow night. The new station will serve about two million passengers a year and provide easy access to the city center. Designed by architect Eri Goshen, the station's wide roof is in the shape of a giant wave covering the bus stops on Hashalom Bridge, the ticket office, and the platforms. (Text: Sybil Ehrlich; photo: Israel Sun)

Arafat sees Israel's demise

Jerusalem Post Staff

YASSER Arafat told a closed meeting of Arab ambassadors in Stockholm recently that he expects Israel to collapse in the foreseeable future, according to the Norwegian daily *Dagen* of February 16.

The PLO leader was in the Swedish capital on January 30 to celebrate a peace prize shared by Peace Now, Labor Young Leadership, and Fatah Youth.

According to *Dagen*, the report has been confirmed by Swedish sources, which traced the information to one of the diplomats attending the meeting with Arafat following a festive dinner.

Assuring this audience that the establishment of a Palestinian state is imminent, Arafat was quoted as declaring that both Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Minister Yossi Beilin would support such a state, as long as religious freedom is guaranteed its Jewish inhabitants.

But he predicted Jews would not want to live under Palestinian sovereignty. "They will give up their dwellings and leave for the US," he said, adding, "We Palestinians will take over everything, including all of Jerusalem. Peres and Beilin have already promised us half of Jerusalem. The Golan Heights, too, have already been given away, subject to just a few details. And when they are returned, at least a million rich Jews will leave Israel."

Arafat said he expects civil war to erupt in Israel, in which Russian immigrants, "half of whom are Christians or Moslems," will fight for "a united Palestinian state." He also asserted that the "so-called Ethiopian Jews" are Moslems.

Outlining his strategy, he said, "The PLO will now concentrate on splitting Israel psychologically into two camps. Within five years we will have six to seven million Arabs living on the West Bank and Jerusalem. All Palestinian Arabs will be welcomed by us. If the Jews can import all kinds of Ethiopians, Russians, Uzbeks, and Ukrainians as Jews, we can import all kinds of Arabs. We plan to eliminate the State of Israel and establish a Palestinian state. We will make life unbearable for Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion. Jews will not want to live among Arabs."

"I have no use for Jews. They are and remain Jews. We now need all the help we can get from you in our battle for a united Palestine under Arab rule," he concluded.

Responding to inquiries by *Ma'ariv*, Arafat's office in Gaza called the report "false and inaccurate."

The contents of Arafat's talk were first reported in Israel by the off-shore radio station Arutz 7 on February 7.

Suspect held in Jaffa shooting
A suspect was arrested yesterday afternoon in the attempted murder of a former collaborator, who was shot four times earlier in the day in the Jaffa vegetable market. Khalil Dagma, 30, who ran a stall in the market, was in fair to serious condition after the shooting.

Maccabi head quits after fraud conviction

JUDY SIEGEL and Itim

RAFI Roter, the Maccabi Health Fund's long-time director-general, resigned yesterday after being convicted of fraud by Tel Aviv Magistrates' Court.

Yisrael Rotem, managing director of Procardia, which is jointly owned by Maccabi and private investors, was also convicted of fraud, as were Maccabi and Procardia. Roter also served as a board member of Procardia, which provides rest and recuperation to heart patients in Tel Aviv.

The long-running case involved a 1987 agreement by Maccabi to loan \$4 million to Procardia. The money was meant to help the company buy the Basle Hotel in Tel Aviv, which Procardia intended to use as its coronary recuperation facility.

Maccabi brought the proposal to its finance committee, chaired by Roter, on December 1 1987. According to the meeting's protocol, the loan was to be given without interest.

However, it was charged in court, at the end of 1988 or the beginning of 1989, documents were found in Maccabi's safe to the effect that there was a further agreement between Roter and Procardia on December 16, 1987, whereby the loan was to be linked to the dollar and carry an annual interest charge of 6.5 percent.

Maccabi, the prosecution charged, listed the money it made from the interest and linkage as coming from discounts and supervisory fees, and thus was able to maintain its tax exemption.

Judge Bracha Ofir-Tom ruled that it had been proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Procardia and Rotem had concealed the interest and linkage payments by falsely listing them in its books that Roter was aware of this and approved it.

The defendants' expressions of regret did not satisfy the judge, who also expressed surprise that Prof. Shlomo Laniado of Ichilov Hospital, one of the investors in Procardia, had not been charged with Rotem.

Labor Histadrut faction likely to drop Ramon from list of recommended primary candidates

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR'S Histadrut faction is expected to drop Labor Minister Haim Ramon's name from its list of recommended candidates in the party primaries. The final list will be released on Sunday.

The faction's political forum met yesterday to formulate the list. Faction heads drew up a list of 18 names, including most of the party's incumbent ministers. Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat topped the list.

"We will recommend to our activists and to party members close to the Histadrut to vote for candidates we think should be in

the next Knesset. These are people who have proved their support of the Histadrut and who are sure to promote the Histadrut's interests in the next Knesset," faction chairman Haim Habersfeld said.

Ramon's name was added to the list at the last moment, after administration section chairman Meir Gatz, who arrived late, insisted on it.

"This is no time for to settle petty accounts," he said. "We

will support people who will support the Histadrut's strong general federation, while Ramon wants to turn it into a small, poor trade union. We have a problem with Ramon, no matter how important he is to Labor. I'm sure there are enough other party members to vote for him," a faction source said.

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Hagaon Hagadol Harav
Chaim Yaakov Goldvicht זצ"ל
we have scheduled a
Day of Learning in his memory
Tuesday, 7 Adar 5756 (February 27th, 1996)

SCHEDULE:
05:58 - Tefilat Vatikin
09:00 - Visit to grave - Har Hamenuchoth, Yerushalayim
11:00 - Shiur - Harav David Kav shlita.
12:15 - Shiur - Harav Yitzchak Peretz shlita, Chief Rabbi of Ra'anana

13:15 - Lunch
14:00 - Shiur - Harav Avraham Rivlin shlita, Mashgiach
15:00 - Mincha
15:30 - Dedication of Bet Hamidrash Building in memory of Maran Rosh Hayeshiva זצ"ל. Speaker: Rabbi Morris Esformes shlita.
16:30-18:00 Semicha Ordination Ceremony of Kollel students and graduates in the presence of the Chief Rabbis of Israel

Speakers: Rosh Hayeshiva, Harav Mordechai Greenberg shlita Chief Rabbi of Israel, Harav Yisrael Meir Lau shlita Chief Rabbi of Israel, HaRishon L'Tzion, Harav Eliahu Bakshi Doron shlita

Conferral of Semicha:
Rosh Kollel, Harav Zecharia Tubi shlita
19:00 - Maariv
19:30 - Siyum Hashas in memory of Maran Rosh Hayeshiva זצ"ל
Seudat Mitzva
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Qumran yields ancient text

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

THE first ancient writing to be found at Qumran in 40 years - a pottery sherd inscribed with 16 lines of Hebrew - was uncovered at the site recently.

The inscription, still in the process of decipherment and only partially intact, apparently lists food supplies sent to Qumran from Jericho.

This is the first text not of a religious nature ever uncovered at Qumran, near the Dead Sea, where between 1947 and 1956 more than 800 parchment and papyrus scrolls were found in caves. It is also the first Qumran text found on a pottery sherd.

The discovery was made by a team of American volunteers working at the site two weeks ago under the direction of Prof. James Strange of the University of Southern Florida. "I was clearing some earth with a trowel when I suddenly heard a clink," said Joseph Caulfield, 39, a carpenter from the state of Washington. "I picked up the sherd and after a second or two I saw that

there were definitely letters on it. It had been lying only an inch or two below the surface."

The sherd is plainly not part of the corpus of writing known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, a collection of religious texts hidden in 11 caves around the ruins of Qumran almost 2,000 years ago. However, it is the first Qumran inscription that may be connected to the daily life of the people who dwelt there. The absence hitherto of such mundane documents has puzzled scholars and led some to argue that Qumran was a military outpost and not the monastery-like religious commune it is generally believed to be.

The sherd was not found in one of the caves, but a few dozen meters south of the Qumran compound, which is generally regarded as a "motherhouse" for the Dead Sea sect. The sherd lay on the exterior side of a stone wall girding the compound. Found near it were some sherds from the First Temple period, including the handle of a storage jar.

Government suing IBM

THE government is suing IBM-Israel for NIS 13.5 million, for causing a three-month delay in the payment of salaries to state employees and pensioners.

The suit, believed to be the first of its kind in Israel, was filed yesterday on behalf of the Treasury by the Tel Aviv district prosecutor. It alleges that IBM acted in bad faith when it obtained an injunction to prevent the Treasury from holding a bid to choose a company to process the payments.

In April 1995, the court lifted the injunction. It ruled that there had been no justification for IBM's claim that the bids committee was biased, and that in fact it was IBM that acted in bad faith. The court ordered IBM to pay court costs.

It also ruled that IBM had withheld relevant information in submitting its bid.

The Treasury claims that the delay caused NIS 13.5 million in damages, and is asking for compensation.

IBM has not yet responded. (tim)

Arye Schwartz convicted of taking IDF arms

ST-SGT. Arye Schwartz was convicted yesterday by the Northern Command Military Court of stealing weapons and military equipment from the IDF in 1994.

Schwartz confessed to the charges under a plea bargain, and he will be sentenced only next month.

He was arrested during the investigation of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination after weapons were found in a cache at a friend's house and a car in Petah Tikva.

Some of the weapons were transferred to confessed Rabin assassin Yigal Amir and his brother, Haggai.

The prosecution said the arms were to be used against Arabs, and the Amir brothers had estimated most of what they had received long before Rabin's murder.

Schwartz's lawyer said this proved there was no connection between his client and the assassination. (tim)

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A different vision

ONE of the most disturbing aspects of the ongoing Oslo process is that Israelis, who live in an open, free democracy, must often learn of developments in the negotiations from Arab sources. It used to be taken for granted that the government, though sometimes evasive for security reasons, generally tells the whole truth, while the dictatorial Arab regimes can almost always be counted on to conceal and prevaricate.

It is not that the Arab regimes, and Yasser Arafat in particular, have stopped lying. But the government seems far less open and honest than it used to be. Since Oslo it seems to be concealing the truth not for justifiable security considerations, but as a result of what can only be described as a patronizing attitude to the Israeli electorate.

As the late Yitzhak Rabin once put it, the government "knows what is best for the people." It seems to believe that the later the public is informed about the course of the negotiations, the better. This is why Israelis first heard about the Oslo talks from PLO sources, while both the prime minister and foreign minister flatly denied that they were taking place.

Similarly, when Arafat asserted that he had a commitment from then-foreign minister Shimon Peres to preserve PLO institutions in Jerusalem and permit them to function freely - an assertion Peres strenuously denied - he was thought to be plainly lying. But in fact a letter of commitment did exist, as Peres eventually had to admit.

Two weeks ago a report leaked out of a meeting Arafat had with Arab diplomats in Stockholm. No recording devices were permitted in the room, but one of the diplomats was said to have taken down Arafat's words, and after having them translated, conveyed the text to a Swedish journalist.

The report contained statements which *The Jerusalem Post* found difficult to credit - particularly an assertion that Peres and Minister Yossi Beilin had agreed to the establishment of a Palestinian state. It was not the kind of statement Arafat would make in public, even in a closed meeting, unless he had some basis for it. And since the prime minister's office in Jerusalem called the report "nonsense," and Arafat's office in Gaza said it was "false and inaccurate," the *Post* withheld publication, even after the Hebrew press and a Norwegian paper published the story.

But now a report in *Ha'aretz* by Israel's most respected military correspondent, Ze'ev Schiff,

confirms that in secret talks between Beilin and the PLO's Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) - the level on which the Oslo agreement was reached - the Israeli side had indeed agreed to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

According to Schiff, Peres has not yet decided to sign the accord, mostly because he wants the Jerusalem issue to be resolved more comprehensively, and because the Palestinian-Jordanian link which he favors is not mentioned in the agreement.

But the fact is that government representatives on the highest level have agreed to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Gaza and Judea-Samaria, with a connecting extra-territorial corridor, and have acknowledged the right of this state to bring in as many Arab "refugees" from neighboring countries as it wishes. In fact, according to the agreement, Israel will assist financially and in other ways to absorb such refugees in the Palestinian state, and allow an unspecified number to settle in Israel as part of a family-renaissance program.

The plan also calls for dividing Jerusalem into an Arab "Al Quds" and an Israeli "Jerusalem," with Arab suburbs and neighboring villages incorporated into Al-Quds. The Temple Mount would be extraterritorial under Palestinian jurisdiction, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre under Palestinian control, without being extraterritorial. The negotiators have not been able to agree on the fate of the Old City.

In the light of this agreement, Arafat's Stockholm speech does not sound incredible at all. In fact, his statement, "Peres and Beilin have already promised us half of Jerusalem," is only a slight exaggeration.

But most illuminating is Arafat's vision of what will follow this agreement, the final clause of which includes a provision that the Palestinians will have no more claims against Israel.

"We Palestinians will take over everything, including all of Jerusalem," he said. "Within five years we will have six to seven million Arabs living on the West Bank and Jerusalem... If the Jews can import all kinds of Ethiopians, Russians, Uzbekians, and Ukrainians as Jews, we can import all kinds of Arabs... We plan to eliminate the state of Israel and establish a Palestinian state... We will make life unbearable for Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion. Jews will not want to live among Arabs."

Arafat, too, seems to believe in a new Middle East. It is just that his vision is different from Peres's.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CYTRYN DEMONSTRATION

Sir, - On February 8, there was a demonstration in Jerusalem against the administrative detention of Shmuel Cytrin. The Women for Israel's Tomorrow took an active role in the protest.

Rabbi David Forman in his piece, "A human rights hoax" of February 21, unjustly defamed these ladies by playing fast and loose with the facts. He accused them of "drawing others into (a) deceptive web" by using the issue of administrative detention to advocate for convicted murderers. He specifically implied that the ladies carried posters with Ami Popper's portrait with Cytrin's. "As I was walking on the demonstration, I passed a number of posters sporting pictures of Jewish settlers who were either being held under administrative detention or were defined as being political prisoners. Shmuel Cytrin's portrait was prominently displayed on the poster. Just below his picture was another portrait, of Ami Popper..." This is patently false. My wife was among the ladies

THE TRANS-ISRAEL HIGHWAY

Sir, - The anti-Highway Sir lobby (Dr. Pulder's letter of January 26) is simply forgetting common sense while being dazzled by economic jargon. The truth is that new roads do not encourage more cars; has anyone noticed a slowdown in the growth of traffic over the last few years, even without Highway Six?

Without a better road infrastructure (and everyone knows that we have one of the highest car-per-kilometer-of-road density in the world), we will simply grind to a halt in huge jams, causing incalculable economic loss, wasted time and energy and ecological damage. The future of development in Israel is critically dependent on better and more roads. These will also contribute to reducing the carnage on the roads since better roads have been proven to produce better driving.

There is no conflict whatsoever between improving roads and also improving public transport. On the contrary, good interurban roads and good intrurban subway, rail and bus services are an excellent combination. And high-speed rail links are definitely vital, but not as an alternative to the flexibility and high exploitability of good roads.

DR. ANTHONY S. LUDER
Rosh Pina.

MISREPRESENTATION

Sir, - In his article of February 21, "A human rights hoax" David Forman claims the protest of Shmuel Cytrin's detention was lumped in with Ami Popper's, treating them in the same light. As a matter of fact, there was a division down the center of the poster (as if it was two posters), with each dealing with a separate issue. The Cytrin picture was along with that of Rabbi

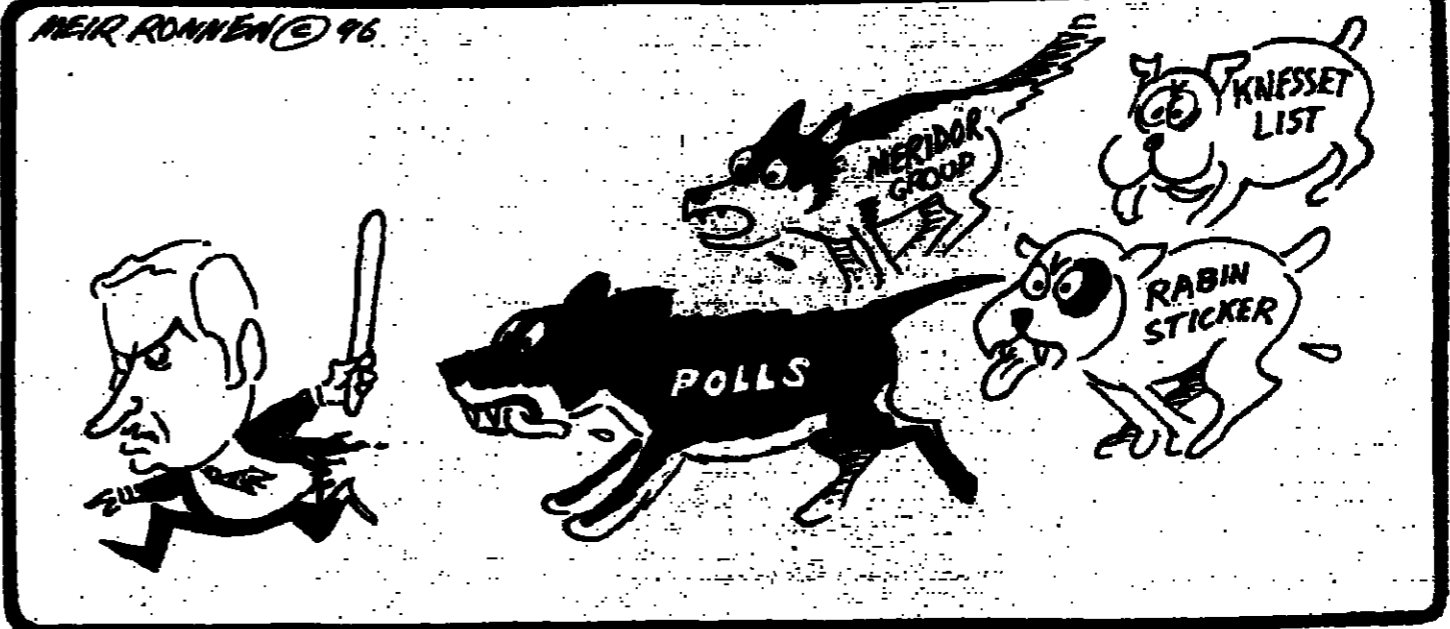
UNITED ACTION

are prepared to work together to improve women's status. Though there is now an increasing number of men sympathizers, it is doubtful whether they would have initiated the reforms had it not been for the united action of their female colleagues.

We need more women in Israeli politics and decision-making and yes - we do expect the support of women professionals of all kinds, including journalists.

PROFESSOR ALICE SHALVI,
Chairwoman
The Israel Women's Network
Jerusalem.

Greer Fay Cashman comments:
I do not oppose affirmative action, but I do oppose discrimination against men.



It's inevitable; accept it

I have seldom been more depressed than last week, when I listened to the foreign minister awkwardly defending an obsolete Israeli commitment to oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Labor Party wasted a large amount of credibility in refusing to negotiate with the PLO for several years after that body had recognized Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

I would have thought that since the triumphal Rabin-Peres breakthrough in the peace process, other Israeli spokesmen would stop looking around for doors to close and for options to reject.

A serious body of opinion, most of it friendly to Israel, seems convinced that Palestinian statehood is already probable and, perhaps, inevitable. In the spring of 1994 a poll of Israelis conducted by the American Jewish Committee revealed that 40 percent of Israelis favored a Palestinian state and 70 percent considered that it is likely to be established whether anyone likes it or not.

Henry Kissinger, who is not a negligible authority on the interpretation of diplomatic documents, wrote after the Camp David accords:

"Paradoxically, the Begin government, against its preferences and ideology, was really proposing what all other nations were certain to treat as an embryo (Palestinian) state: One day there was an elected self-governing authority on the West Bank, an irreversible political fact would be

ABBA EBAN

created on the territory over which its authority was supposed to run.

"However limited this authority, it would soon turn into the nucleus of something like a Palestine state, probably under PLO control. It would be so treated by almost all the countries of the world except Israel."

If Palestinian statehood is even one of the potential options, it would be useful for Israeli leaders

to face the prospect in a spirit of realism and candor.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak seems to believe that Israel's consent would be essential for a Palestinian state to come into existence. This reveals a strange lapse of memory.

I was associated in 1948 with the decision of our founding fathers to do without any encouragement from our previous (British) rulers when they decided to raise the Israeli flag in May 1948. Nor did the American colonists seek the consent of King George III when they proclaimed their resolve to separate from their British jurisdiction.

When it comes to decisions about establishing new sovereign

appeal deserves respect.

Once Israeli governments decided, first at Camp David and then at Oslo, to "withdraw" the Israeli administrations in the West Bank and Gaza and to have them "replaced" by a Palestinian self-governing authority, they created a vacuum of the kind nature abhors. The situation cried out for the vacuum to be filled by the inhabitants of the areas concerned.

It is, as Kissinger has written, paradoxical for Menachem Begin to go down - or up - in history as the first author of the Palestinian state, but history has no obligation to be logical. The central truth is that Israeli policy has been a bipartisan Israeli policy with the unusual attribute of having been

embraced by the two major parties at different times.

The fear that negotiation with the PLO would injure Israel's interests has already been proved false. Even those who opposed the Oslo agreements are now willing to accept the realities which those agreements have bequeathed. The same is true of the demagogical conviction that a Palestinian state, microscopically weaker than Israel in military and economic power, would prejudice our nation's security.

Talleyrand once said that history requires "cooperation with the inevitable." This was French realism at its best. A rational Israeli government should now be devising measures to ensure that a Palestinian state, if and when it is established, will be integrated harmoniously into a Middle East dedicated to regional cooperation.

The European example shows that this result can best be achieved by a regional order in which separate sovereignty for Israel, Jordan and Palestine goes hand in hand with contractually accepted community obligations.

The issues of territory and sovereignty cannot be evaded without explosive results. The idea that only Israel and Jordan can have well-defined territories while the Palestinians have "functions" is too absurd to be rationally considered. The functional illusion has had a disastrous history which should not be artificially revived.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

Required: a strong dose of realism regarding the reality of a Palestinian state

Security sans peace, if need be

IF Labor wins the elections, Binyamin Netanyahu said recently, the IDF will withdraw to the 1967 borders and a Palestinian state will come into being.

If Labor wins the elections, the Likud leader emphasized, we will retreat from the Golan to the shore of the Kinneret.

And Jerusalem will be divided again.

Netanyahu rightly accuses Shimon Peres of willingness to make far-reaching concessions. Even if his claims are exaggerated, it is true that the Labor Party has already come to terms with the foundation of a Palestinian state.

It is also true that the debate over the Golan comes down to the question of whether Syrian soldiers will be able to paddle in the Kinneret, or whether they will have to make do with spitting into the water from a few yards away.

But if Peres wins the elections he will go out of his way to preserve the Jordan valley and the settlements on the high ground. He won't agree to the formal partition of Jerusalem - even if he does accept a de facto division of the city. And in return, he will bring us peace.

This is the left's message: Peace in return for far-reaching concessions. Peace with danger - but peace for all that.

YOSEF LAPID

Netanyahu says that if he becomes prime minister he will not withdraw to the '67 borders, there will be no Palestinian state, we will not retreat from the Golan, and there will be no concession whatever on the unity of Jerusalem. All this is quite correct.

But then Netanyahu adds a sentence which he knows isn't true, the Arabs know isn't true, and

est slogan, when he has a genuine case? Is he worried that Israelis are so hooked on the idea of peace that no argument which casts doubt on the peace process can shake them?

Would Netanyahu rather wage a fraudulent election campaign out of fear that the truth will not win out?

Netanyahu's true position is this: The peace taking shape before our eyes is temporary, illusory, and not worth the price.

Arafat is realizing his policy of stages. He's taking what he's being offered now, quietly, and with a smile. Afterwards he'll release the safety catch that is holding back terrorism and the intifada, and will launch the campaign for Jerusalem.

And after that the real jihad will begin - for Lod, Ramle, Jaffa, Acre and the Galilee.

Exactly the same is true of Assad. All he wants is to advance as far as the Kinneret. From there

Why has the Likud leader started his campaign with a dishonest slogan when he has a genuine case?

POSTSCRIPTS

A NEW BREED of steed has arrived in horse country. White Cloud, stocking-legged foal of a quarter horse, sports racing stripes.

MADONNA IS not, repeat not, obsessed with sex. That is now official, because she says so herself.

sex and with shocking people," she said.

She thinks her image might be undergoing a change. "I think actually that people are now starting to see me as a human being. God, maybe she does have a brain in her head and maybe she does have other ideas and maybe, maybe there is something behind that."

And maybe not.

SEE IF THIS example of mangled English doesn't make you weep.

Sired with the sperm of a Grant's zebra and foaled by a registered mare, White Cloud and others like him promise to be "the horses of the future," says breeder Diane Richards of Big Bear Lake, California.

Make that the zorses of the future.

The singer who turned sex into an industry with her provocative records, films and books, said in an interview that she is not the "raving nymphomaniac" that the public seems to think.

She also said that while she has no problem meeting men, "it's a problem meeting someone who's not an asshole."

She plans to put ads in newspapers seeking someone to father her child. "Who knows who's gonna apply for, you know, the fatherhood gig?" she said.

SOME IN the Moslem world might want to imagine Jerusalem as a Palestinian city. Others may want to believe it's still Jordanian. One or two might even recognize it as Israeli.

But we got some mail here at the *Post*, that is truly surprising. A letter from Turkey came addressed to "... Jerusalem Post Building, Romema, Jerusalem, Egypt."

Now that takes some imagining!

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

I the undersigned RINA ORON Notary in Jerusalem, Israel, hereby declare that I am well acquainted with ENGLISH and HEBREW languages (the attached document marked "A" - (the document overleaf is a correct ENGLISH translation prepared by me) of the original document drawn up in HEBREW language' which has been produced to me, a photocopy is hereby attached marked "B" and I hereby certify the correctness of the said photocopy.

When he's old enough to ride, five-month-old White Cloud and future "zorses" will combine the speed and savvy of zebras with the friendliness of horses, Richards hopes.

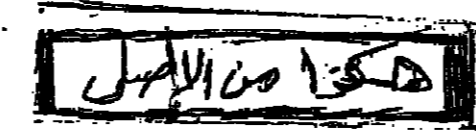
"Zebras have been running from lions for a long time, and they are real fast," she said. "They're also smart, and they can jump."

But the real question is: Why has Netanyahu inaugurated his election campaign with a dishonest slogan, when he has a genuine case?

Netanyahu's true position is this: The peace taking shape before our eyes is temporary, illusory, and not worth the price.

in witness whereof I certify the correctness of the said translation by my signature and seal.

R. Hope



Life-and-death issues

AS THE elections approach, it is becoming painfully clear that the government is not prepared to reveal facts which the electorate must know to vote intelligently. Its reluctance is understandable. If it did, all the concessions already made in Jerusalem, on the Golan and elsewhere would become known.

To protect itself, the government counters charges with invective. "It's incitement! It's a campaign of character assassination against Shimon Peres, which may end in a political assassination!" say its spokesmen.

And, eying the primaries, ministers chime in: "Me, too! I'm also in danger!"

The premier himself asserted this week, "There are thousands, not necessarily of the Likud, ready to kill cabinet ministers."

Not one madman, or two, or three - but thousands! Few in history, none too savory, have accused thousands of their citizens of such nefarious intentions.

Yet were it not for our warnings at the beginning of the week about what is happening in Jerusalem, would the prime minister have ordered the expulsion from the city of hundreds of Palestinian security men who have, for more than a year, controlled eastern Jerusalem? (Indeed, was there really a Palestinian police force there? The government has vehemently denied it.)

Were it not for the Likud's statements, would the prime minister have ordered the cessation of Palestinian political activity at Orient House? (Was there really any political activity there? The government strenuously maintained there wasn't.)

We must, then, ignore insinuations that we are endangering lives by asking questions. Surely, even the prime minister does not expect the opposition to sing his praises and proclaim: "He is great, he is great, he is great..."

ARIEL SHARON

he is great, he is great... The questions are fundamental, the answers fateful.

Will the new government link its signature on an agreement to the return of POWs and MIAs?

Will a country wishing to conclude peace with Israel be required to end hostile, venomous propaganda against us? Will it have to stop the indoctrination of hatred for Israel in its schools?

Will countries wishing to negotiate with us be required first to halt arms acquisition and enter serious discussions on arms reduction? Will they be required to negotiate a balance of armaments between Israel and its potential adversaries?

As a condition for our signing agreements, will the Arab countries eliminate, expel, or dismantle the terrorist organizations and their headquarters in their territories?

Will the terms for signing a peace treaty include solving the Palestinian refugee problem in the places where the refugees now live and canceling all their demands to return?

Will the government evacuate the tens of thousands of Palestinians who have been entering Judea, Samaria and Gaza illegally since the signing of the Oslo agreement?

Will the new administration order a halt to the pumping of water from

the hundreds of wells dug without permission, in violation of the Oslo agreement, in the Palestinian Authority's areas in Gaza? These wells are already causing the salination of our wells.

Will the government undertake that not even one additional cubic meter of water from existing sources be supplied to the Syrians, Jordanians and Palestinians?

Will the new government change the economic clauses of the agreement to prevent the flooding of Israeli markets with Palestinian farm produce, something that threatens to destroy our agriculture?

And will all the PA and PLO offices in Jerusalem be closed, and Palestinian security removed from the Temple Mount and the eastern sector of the city?

Will the new government insist on remedying all the violations of the Oslo pact, including the nonextradition of wanted terrorists? Will all unlicensed weapons be confiscated?

And, should terror continue, will the government restore to itself the right of preventive action and hot pursuit, where needed, in the Palestinian zones? Will the government prevent the increase of Palestinian armed forces - and how will it do so?

Will the administration establish security zones in Judea and Samaria which will remain under exclusive Israeli control? What will those be?

What are the ultimate lines of retreat on the Golan Heights? Will withdrawal be linked to a reduction in Syria's armed forces and its departure from Lebanon?

These are questions both government and opposition must answer before the elections. Israel's life depends on it.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

Will a country wishing to make peace be required to end its anti-Israel propaganda or halt its arms race?

Will the terms for signing a peace treaty include solving the Palestinian refugee problem in the places where the refugees now live and canceling all their demands to return?

Will the government evacuate the tens of thousands of Palestinians who have been entering Judea, Samaria and Gaza illegally since the signing of the Oslo agreement?

Will the new administration order a halt to the pumping of water from



Love isn't everything

THE debate about the depth of peace Israel can look forward to with its Arab neighbors has produced some truly peculiar imagery.

In the case of the Palestinians, the Oslo agreement provoked an ongoing debate about whether we are heading toward marriage or divorce. Pending a resolution of this issue, we remain locked in unhappy cohabitation.

In the case of Syria, the argument is about whether Israel can aspire to a warm peace ("Jordan-plus") or is destined to end up with a cold peace ("Egypt-minus").

Supporters and opponents of the peace process with Syria differ in their assessments of the likely outcome, but they seem to share the assumption that only the first is real peace of the kind worth pursuing.

In this respect, both sides conjure up images of aging flower-children, still intoxicated by the dyed slogans and convinced that peace is love.

This is an intensely idealistic vision of peace, explained by the fact that Israelis have historically been preoccupied with the lessons of the last war, the risks of the next one, and the violence in between. But it is has little in common with the realities either of the Middle East or, with a few exceptions, the rest of the world.

Of course, warm peace is desirable. Not only is it emotionally gratifying, it also makes the recurrence of war almost unthinkable.

But while friendship between individual Israelis and Arabs may be possible and popular attitudes may change over time, no political agreement can dictate that the burden of history be erased, competing interests be eliminated, or

MARKA HELLER

the social and cultural differences that divide Israelis from Arabs be neutralized.

No matter what Israel does, it is not going to win the hearts of Syrians - or of its other neighbors - any time soon.

ALL THIS is being done even to a government which insists on warm peace as a condition for withdrawal from the Golan. For by also insisting on adequate security arrangements, it implicitly admits the need to consider sce-

Those who claim that if a peace isn't warm it isn't worth pursuing are wrong

enarios that are simply inconsistent with the kind of peace it claims to demand.

After all, no security arrangements govern relations between Canada and the US, and none would be necessary here if anyone really anticipated a similar relationship in this part of the world.

In short, the critics have good cause to be skeptical about visions of warm peace. But they are on much shakier ground when they go further and suggest that a peace without affection and intimacy is not worth pursuing.

FOR while the spirit of the 1960s may still inspire, the injunction to "make love, not war" does not exhaust all the alternatives. There is another possibility: stable coexistence. Stable coexistence does not

mean harmony and amity. It means regularized interaction based on mutual advantage, something which inevitably combines elements of cooperation and competition, confidence and mistrust, convergence and divergence.

What is critical is not the emotional attraction but the shared, businesslike commitment to ignore, manage, or resolve by nonbelligerent means the ongoing differences between peace partners - as Egypt and Israel have done since 1979.

Even if Israel becomes an honorary member of the Arab League, it will never be accepted as an integral part of the Arab world. But since its major cultural affinities and economic opportunities reside elsewhere, it probably doesn't want that, and certainly doesn't need it.

What Israel does want and need can only get through a political settlement in the network of routine relations which characterizes peace between most states, most of the time, in most of the world.

Only stable peace with its neighbors - warm or cold - will permit Israel to fully develop its ties with countries, cultures, corporations, and consumers in the rest of the world.

In other words, the peace dividend for Israel is not love, but the normalization of its collective condition that Theodor Herzl defined, 100 years ago, as the goal of the Zionist movement.

And that is an objective worth pursuing, even at a cost.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

Human side of the Golan issue

IMANUEL NOY-MEIR

AMID all the talk of strategic depth, early warning stations on the Golan, and other security measures on the Golan, it often seems to get overlooked that we are also talking about people's lives, rights and liberty.

What is the human side of the Golan issue, and how should Israel address it?

Syria is ruled by one of the harshest and most efficiently oppressive regimes in the world. It has no respect for the civil and human rights of its own citizens. All opposition and dissent has been ruthlessly eliminated.

Fourteen million people live in fear of being accused of expressing even the slightest disapproval of the regime. "For the sake of peace" we might be tempted to make a deal with a totalitarian regime, a deal that would undoubtedly strengthen it and allow it to tighten its hold on the Syrian people.

Be that as it may, there are people whose fate we cannot abandon: the residents of the Golan Heights, both Jews and Druse.

The 16,000-plus Druse of the Golan are in a tragic situation. For nearly 30 years they have lived safely within Israeli jurisdiction. Those who chose obtained full Israeli citizenship. The remainder enjoyed all the freedoms of residents in a democracy.

In a future peace treaty Syria were to take over their villages, all known or suspected pro-Israeli Druse would have to go into exile. And none of those who remained would be free of fear of Big Brother's eye and hand.

Some Golan Druse, under the umbrella of Israeli democracy, now declare their loyalty to the Syrian fatherland and its leader, and are pressuring others to join them. They do so at least in part in anticipation of such a future Syrian takeover, particularly since they have seen Israel withdraw from Sinai, and heard Israeli leaders admit that to be a precedent.

The traditional Druse survival policy of avoiding direct confrontation with ruthless tyrants

has evolved from bitter experience in 1,000 years of being a minority.

In private conversations many Golan Druse, while expressing sorrow at being isolated from their relatives in Syria, admit that they much prefer their freedom and prosperity in Israel to what

they can expect under Syrian rule.

Is Israel prepared simply to deliver these peace-loving people to the mercy of a dictator like Assad without giving them the chance to participate in determining their own future, without fear?

NEARLY 15,000 Jews have their homes on the Golan Heights. Many of them have lived there for a generation. This is much longer than the settlers in Sinai, who had been there for only a few years when president Sadat came to Jerusalem to offer peace.

Assad did not come. Meanwhile, thousands of children and youngsters have been born and raised on the Golan. It is the only home they have known.

Are thousands of families to be evicted from their homes and uprooted from their environment?

These people did not come as temporary settlers to a controversial zone. They volunteered to make the Golan their permanent home in the knowledge that it was an area of national consensus, encouraged from 1967 to 1992 by each government in turn, and by almost all Israelis.

Now their former captains and comrades have abandoned them. Their fate is being discussed in a "peace process" in which they have no voice, as if they were pawns in the "New Middle East"

chess game. The Golan residents are some of Israel's most loyal and law-abiding citizens. Their struggle to remain part of us, led by the Golan Residents Committee, has been hailed even by its opponents as a model of a vigorous but non-violent democratic campaign.

A deal with a dictator that injures thousands of innocent people cannot be morally right

But many Golan residents are quietly determined not to leave their homes willingly.

A mass deportation of the Jewish residents from the Golan would be a blatant injustice. It would be a traumatic violation of human rights and human dignity, one that would divide our society for a long time to come.

Those wishing to delegitimize the Golan residents sometimes argue that they settled on land occupied in war, from which the previous inhabitants fled in 1967. Some of these self-righteous critics - like more than a million Israelis - live on land similarly taken in the 1948 war.

What's the difference? In both

wars the aggressors lost and refused to make peace for a generation. After all these years, surely those who live on the land have the right to stay there?

Within the terms of a peace agreement, we should recognize the right of Syrian citizens displaced from the Golan in the 1967 war to receive cash compensation for their property. But to consider displacing the present residents in peacetime - or, alternatively, abandoning them to the mercies of a dictatorship - would be a distorted interpretation indeed of human rights, and of justice.

The pragmatic advantages of a "Golan-for-peace" deal with Assad for Israel's strategic interests are dubious. Not even the most astute analyst can predict with any certainty that the promised benefits will materialize, or that the looming risks will not become a reality.

But a "peace" deal that will injure many thousands of innocent families in order to placate a dictatorship must surely be morally wrong.

This is one of the reasons why the majority of Israelis, including many who have always supported Labor and the left, will refuse to vote for such a deal.

The writer is a professor of ecology at the Hebrew University.

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The dedication of the tombstone in loving memory of

ESTHER TAYLOR 77

will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 1996 at 3 p.m. at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Har Tuv Junction (near Beit Shemesh).

The Family

Our beloved

HAROLD FLOWERS

passed away suddenly.

The funeral will take place today, Friday, February 23, at the Rehovot Cemetery at 12 noon.

His shocked and bereaved family:

Sylvia Flowers

Zvia, Reuven, Arnon, Allon and Erez Grafit Sarona, Yosi, Tali, Ron and Gill Avrahamov Uri, Paula, Jonathan and Daniel Flowers

Upon the *sheloshim* of the death of our beloved mother

LEA ROSENBAUM 77

we shall gather for the unveiling of her tombstone on Sunday, February 25, 1996 (5 Adar 5756), at 2 p.m. Meeting at Har Hamenuhot - Har Tamir, Jerusalem.

Our thanks to all our comforters.

Rosenbaum, Ben Dor, Molho, and Arnoza Families

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

The leadership, staff and students extend deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to

Harry D. Wellheimer,

a devoted friend of the University, on the passing of his beloved wife

ELIZABETH ("Ebs") WEILHEIMER 77

With regret we announce the death in Eemnes (the Netherlands) of

OSCAR JACQUES VAN LEER

In accordance with his will, his body has been donated for medical research.

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The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute regretfully announces the passing of

OSCAR VAN LEER 77

A Member of the Board of Trustees since its inception whose spirit and vision have been a source of inspiration.

The Members of the Board, Executive Director and Staff



The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, deeply mourns the passing of its dear friend

RHODA GOLDMAN

and extends heartfelt condolences to Richard Goldman and the entire Goldman and Haas Families



The Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research deeply mourns the passing of

LEONA FINKLER 77

founder and benefactor of the Institute, and devoted supporter of scholarly Holocaust research

Prof. Dan Michman, Chairman

Serbs flee in chaotic exodus from Sarajevo

COLUMNS of desperate Serbs fled Sarajevo suburbs in a chaotic exodus yesterday, jamming mountain roads around the city hours before Moslem-Croat federation police were due to begin patrolling the area.

Trucks, cars, tractors and trailers struggled along a back road from Sarajevo a day before the scheduled arrival of Moslem-Croat police in the northern suburb of Vogosca.

Hundreds of Serbs stranded without transport hiked up a

steep, muddy track, fleeing on foot in the snow. Several fires burned unattended in Vogosca, one of five suburbs which will be handed over to the federation by March 20 under terms of the Dayton peace agreement signed in December.

President Alija Izetbegovic, who led Bosnia in its break from old Yugoslavia, was taken to the hospital with suspected heart

trouble but a senior party official said his life was not in danger.

"Doctors will give an official statement on his health condition. It is not life threatening, there is no reason for any concern," Edhem Bicakcic, vice-president of the ruling Party of Democratic Action (SDA), told state radio.

Bicakcic said the Moslem president was tired after leading Bosnia through war, lengthy peace negotiations and last weekend's Rome summit. (Reuters)

Coalition talks in Turkey postponed

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey's Islamist and conservative leaders have delayed talks on a coalition after disagreements between senior party aides, Turkish television said yesterday.

Private ATV and Kanal D television channels said disagreements between the aides on the formation of the cabinet had delayed the talks between Islamist Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan and conservative Motherland Party (ANAP) leader Mesut Yilmaz, scheduled for this morning.

Kanal D said the talks may take place tomorrow.

Senior Turkish Islamist and conservative aides met for a second

time yesterday to discuss apportioning ministries in the coalition. They had met for more than six hours late on Wednesday to prepare the ground for the planned meeting between their leaders.

The talks had become embittered as Yilmaz and a top Islamist clashed over whether Motherland, placed third in December polls, was entitled to demand further concessions from Welfare which came first but was snubbed by secular parties.

Erbakan and Yilmaz had earlier this week moved closer to agreement, announcing they would rotate the premiership.

Gas pipeline blown up in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Terrorists blew up a gas pipeline yesterday in an explosion that ignited a fierce fire in Chechnya, even as Russian forces were stepping up security on the eve of a solemn Chechen anniversary.

Leaders of the Russian-backed Chechen government blamed the blast, and a similar attack in neighboring Dagestan, on separatist fighters loyal to rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

No casualties were reported. But amid reports of a new clash between rebels and Russian troops, Moscow's forces beefed up security at their posts around Chechnya as a precaution against what they called further provocations by the rebels.

Today is the 52nd anniversary of the brutal mass deportation of Chechens by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, who accused them of collaborating with the Nazi army. More than half the population of 425,000 Chechens and Ingush died on the journey to the barren steppes of Central Asia.

Ferial and Sami Balass and family extend their deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Jacob Ballas of Singapore

on the sad passing of his beloved mother

GRACE BALLAS

With deep sorrow we announce the tragic deaths of

AB and DOROTHY KRAMER 77

Ab Kramer was known as an outstanding leader of the Zionist movement of Great Britain, member of the Presidium of the Zionist General Council, and Deputy Chairman of the World Confederation of United Zionists.

Eli Eyal
Chairman,
Organization
Department, WZO

Yitzhak Peretz
Chairman,
Zionist
General Council

Kalman Sultaniuk
Chairman,
World Confederation
of United Zionists



Bar-Ilan University

We deeply mourn the passing of our great and very dear friend, a woman of valor, vision, courage and leadership

LEONA FINKLER 77

of Toronto, Canada

Vice Chairman of the Bar-Ilan Global Board of Trustees and former President, Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University.

Together with her late husband, Arnold, Leona Finkler devoted herself to the cause of Jewish continuity and scientific research through Bar-Ilan, for more than two decades. She touched the lives of all that knew her. Among her accomplishments:

The Marilyn Finkler Cancer Research Building

The Leona and Arnold Finkler Institute for Holocaust Research

The Leona and Arnold Finkler Hall of Human Rights in the Emanuel Rackman Law Center

The Chancellor, Global Board of Trustees, President and past President, Administration and Faculty extend deepest condolences to Patricia and Allan Friedland and the family.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Black students attend white school in SA

POTGIETERSBURG, South Africa (AP) - Police and journalists outnumbered students yesterday as blacks arrived for classes at the Potgietersrus primary school to end an apartheid-era tradition of discrimination.

Most of the school's 700 white students failed to show up, and little schooling occurred as the 16 black pupils played in the library while about 20 whites either met in classrooms or went home.

One white girl burst into tears when surrounded by reporters and television cameras, and her father took her home.

The scene, reminiscent of the US civil rights movement in the 1950s, ended the most blatant challenge to date to equal rights laws that took effect with the nation's first all-race election in 1994 that ended apartheid.

White parents and the school's governing body had previously blocked attempts by blacks to enroll in the state-subsidized school. This year, with the law behind them, blacks filed a court challenge backed by the provincial government and won the case.

Just after 7 a.m., the black pupils played in the library behind the school gate, walking past armored police vehicles blocking the road to prevent possible protests or harassment by whites.

"We have to work together," said Yvonne Matukane, who came with her three children and husband, Alson. "Everything is there for us now. My children must get what they are supposed to get because they are South Africans."

Carlos the Jackal charged in 1974 Paris cafe bombing

PARIS (AP) - Carlos the Jackal, the infamous terrorist jailed here in an international string of bombings and hijackings, has been charged in a 1974 grenade attack at a Paris cafe.

The Paris prosecutor's anti-terrorism unit confirmed yesterday that Carlos was placed under formal investigation late Wednesday in the explosion, which killed two people and wounded 34 others.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the cafe attack. Investigators believe the terrorist group hired Carlos as a free-lance terrorist to carry out the attack in

revenge for the July 1974 arrest of Yutaka Furuya, a Japanese member of the Red Army faction.

Carlos long has been a suspect in the September 15, 1974, attack at the popular Drugstore cafe on Paris' bustling Boulevard Saint-Germain. The grenade exploded as the cafe was packed with patrons.

Paris anti-terrorism Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere is handling the case. A spokeswoman for his office would not say whether any new evidence had surfaced to implicate Carlos, and she declined to elaborate.

Fahd stages smooth comeback, oil markets calm

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) - King Fahd's resumption of his duties after an almost three-month illness has disproved skeptics who thought his advanced age and history of bad health would preclude his return as Saudi Arabia's monarch.

World oil markets reacted calmly yesterday, and Fahd's smooth comeback has not been accompanied by jumbling of dis-

content found in other Gulf states. Fahd, overweight diabetic in

his 70s, fell ill in late November with an ailment that's never been officially disclosed.

"Having spent a period of rest and convalescence, God has bestowed on me a cure and good health," Fahd said in a letter Wednesday announcing his return.

The king said the decree handing over state duties to his half-brother and heir apparent, Crown Prince Abdullah had "expired," the Saudi Press Agency reported early yesterday.

ON SUNDAY - OUTLOOK DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, February 23, 1996

7

If I campaign for thee, O Jerusalem...

Has the Likud raised the issue of Jerusalem too early? Sarah Honig reports

IN May 1994 then-foreign minister Shimon Peres gave his passionate word to the Knesset that there had been absolutely no undertaking whatsoever given to the PLO not to tamper with its institutions in Jerusalem.

Peres was speaking in reply to a Likud outcry that such an undertaking had indeed been given to Yasser Arafat in a secret letter. Peres took the rostrum to hector the change and while doing so did his acerbic best to make a mockery of the Likud's "desperate and reckless fabrications." All this despite the fact that Arafat himself had declared he possessed a copy of the said letter.

On May 7 of that year Likud MK Benny Begin actually produced the letter in which Peres undertook to allow the Palestinian institutions to operate unhindered in Jerusalem.

But with perfect aplomb Peres maintained that he had not been caught lying. The document which Begin had made public didn't count, the apparently unfettered Peres coolly contended. The letter that Begin got hold of had not been addressed to Arafat but to the Norwegian foreign minister Jergen Holst, one of the begetters of the Oslo accord.

If it all sounds familiar nearly two years later, it's because the entire scenario seems to have been replayed again. At the end of last month Kol Yisrael reported that Peres's protégé, Minister Yossi Beilin, had met Arafat clandestinely in Sweden to discuss the future of Jerusalem.

A fortnight later Faisal Hussein confirmed that talks are under way with the PLO about Jerusalem. On February 15 Ha'aretz reported that Yair

Hirschfeld and Ron Pundak, the initiators of the Oslo process, are conducting "unofficial talks with the Palestinians about dividing Jerusalem."

"The Likud is again up in arms and Peres is again being very carping and derisive in his denials. Those with keen political ears can even discern the counter-part to the late Norwegian foreign minister. Peres does not deny that someone is talking in Europe about Jerusalem but that "no authoritative representatives of the government" are doing so.

Pundak indeed frankly admitted this week that he is "holding discussions in Europe about the various possible options concerning Jerusalem," but that he is doing so unofficially and that the "options do not necessarily involve the division of the city but perhaps the adoption of the boroughs system."

The latter is indeed openly and enthusiastically espoused by Beilin and need not entail using loaded words like division or partition, but will instead make possible creative euphemisms such as "the suspension of sovereignty" or "functional administrative arrangements."

Whether one believes that all this smoke indicates fire depends, of course, on prior political inclinations. But the two outstanding differences between now and 1994 are the fact that we are on the eve of elections and that Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. Hence the Jerusalem issue promises to be pivotal in the Likud's campaign, while Labor's defense is to accuse the Likud of rank incitement and of putting Peres's life at risk just as it did Rabin's.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh



said so clearly. "What we are witnessing now reminds me not of November 1995 when Rabin was murdered, but of October 1995 when the right so abhorrently incited against him, leading to the assassination." It may be no coincidence that on the day the Likud's Jerusalem campaign was launched, Peres's daughter Zvia Walden complained that plants were ripped from the garden of her Ramat Hasharon office, and speculated whether this was politically motivated, perhaps the opening shot in an onslaught against her father.

Chiming in, Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret wondered whether "the Likud had learned anything at all from the assassination or is back to its bad old ways of incitement. There is

not the slightest attempt at contrition on their part."

But Tourism Minister Uzi Baram "sympathizes with the Likud's plight. It realizes that the Oslo accord is good. It's disenchanted with [Binyamin] Netanyahu's leadership. It sees the link with Tsomet was a fatal error."

"The Likud needs to extricate itself and what better way than inventing an issue - Jerusalem. There are real problems in life, so why look for artificial nonexistent causes?"

There is no denying within Likud ranks that Jerusalem is a campaign issue, though it is not clear if it's as potent as Labor apparently fears.

Jerusalem could be an emotive topic, but it's not certain that it is

so at this juncture. With the economy and daily life ostensibly calm just now from the vantage point of Mr. and Ms. Israeli, the Likud might not easily shake the voters out of their apathy even with such a potentially emotional issue as Jerusalem.

The Likud is gambling and gambling big. It is using its heaviest guns at a time when there is no tangible change in Jerusalem.

Warnings about behind-the-scenes nefarious activity - even if they are eventually borne out - may not grip the electorate sufficiently to translate into support at this time. Even if the Likud's assertions are eventually vindicated, the question in the party is whether this will happen in time to cash in electorally.

Likud strategists felt they had to

act fast. New electioneering laws to go into effect soon would limit the size of billboard and newspaper ads. The Likud wanted to move before they take effect and to seize the momentum in the campaign. Three issues were considered - the Palestinian state, the Golan and Jerusalem.

Labor was "surprised by the wool over the nation's eyes and, we are damned if we say so. If we don't say so, we not only stand to lose the elections, but we will surely lose Laborism."

To which Meretz's Shulamit Aloni replies: "The Likud isn't out to save Jerusalem but to turn the entire Moslem world against us, dangerously obscuring the fact that the God of the Moslems has many more troops than does the God of the Jews."

public is still shaken enough by Rabin's assassination to respond emotionally to charges of incitement - charges which Labor could conceivably level at any stand the Likud takes. Thus the better the issue the Likud chooses to spearhead its campaign, the greater the danger of a backlash. If the Likud removes its gloves and attacks Peres's credibility, as in the Jerusalem issue, Labor is sure to counter by delegitimizing the Likud's message on the ground that it constitutes incitement.

"In this way we will soon find it impossible to say anything. What is happening here is unheard of in a democracy," complains Likud newcomer Yitzhak Mordechai.

"We are faced with a situation in which the opposition isn't allowed to say anything, run any sort of campaign or mount any challenge. The government seeks to muzzle us while at the same time presenting itself as the righteous victim."

Three months before official negotiations on Jerusalem begin, the truth is that this government will not allow Jerusalem to jeopardize its Oslo accord.

Jerusalem is very much in peril. Labor is already sponsoring talks. Thirteen PLO institutions operate in Jerusalem and world leaders come on pilgrimage to them. "Worst yet, the government is preventing large-scale construction, especially in corridor areas, which could be used to carve up the city again under one guise or another."

"The government is pulling the wool over the nation's eyes and, we are damned if we say so. If we don't say so, we not only stand to lose the elections, but we will surely lose Laborism."

To which Meretz's Shulamit Aloni replies: "The Likud isn't out to save Jerusalem but to turn the entire Moslem world against us, dangerously obscuring the fact that the God of the Moslems has many more troops than does the God of the Jews."

PA avoids Israeli obstacles, makes inroads in Jerusalem

Orient House is but the tip of Arafat's quasi-governmental iceberg in the capital, Bill Hutman reports

ACCUSED OF planning to redivide Jerusalem this week, Prime Minister Shimon Peres reacted sharply: "I know of no one who is prepared to partition Jerusalem. The Labor Party is clear on this. We're in favor of a united Jerusalem."

"There will not be two governments in Jerusalem," Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday. "There will not be two administrations."

Peres was talking about what will happen to Jerusalem as the peace process moves into its final stage, while the opposition charges the government with conducting secret talks that could lead to the redivision of Jerusalem.

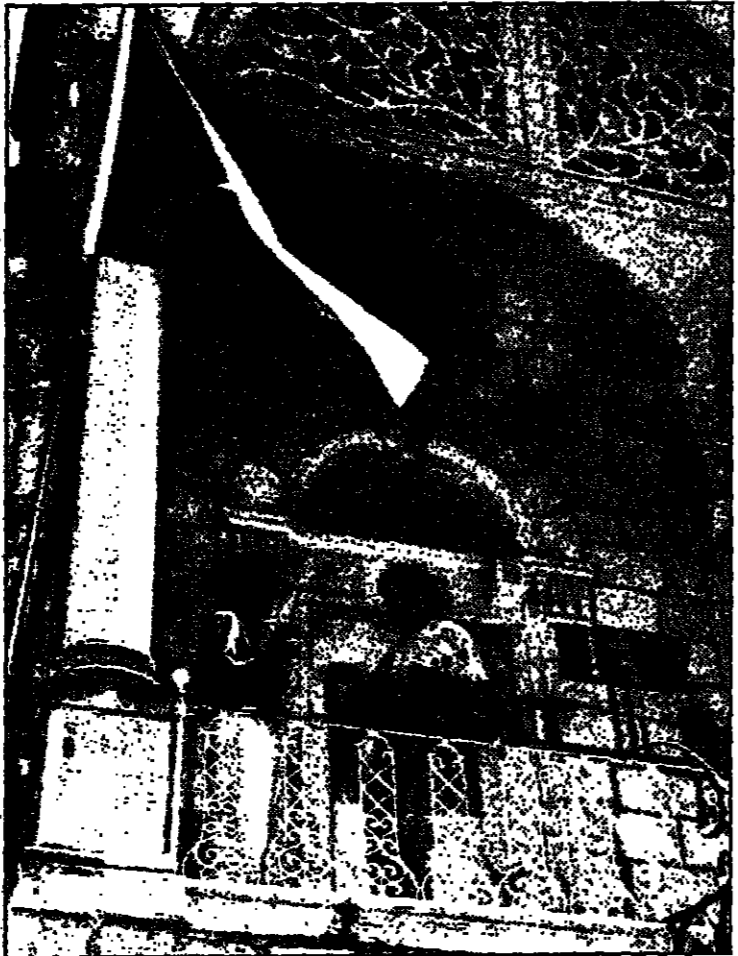
But already today, even before official talks on Jerusalem scheduled for May begin, the Palestinian Authority's presence can be felt virtually everywhere in eastern Jerusalem - from a Silwan school and Mount of Olives hospital, to the streets of the Old City and a minister's office at Al-Aksa.

The PA's inroads in eastern Jerusalem are nothing new; they started being made immediately after signing of the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, while the PLO and other Palestinian political factions exerted influence in eastern Jerusalem long before the DoP.

The opposition is making the capital's future a major issue in the election campaign, forcing the government to come to terms with the phenomenon of Palestinian political power there.

"The things we are doing now at Orient House are not new activities. We started them a long time ago, even during the time of the Likud, and we have the right to continue," said Faisal Hussein, the senior PA official in Jerusalem.

This is the essence of the Palestinian position: Palestinian political power in eastern Jerusalem is a fact. It has existed despite Israel's attempts since 1967 to stamp it out and it was legitimized by the DoP, which put Jerusalem on the peace talks agenda.



Palestinian security men stand guard at the entrance to Orient House. (Ariel Jerozohinski)

IRONICALLY, the DoP and Gaza/Jericho-First agreement are also used by the opposition parties to base their demands for action by the government against PA activity in Jerusalem. The two agreements do specifically limit PA institutions to the Palestinian territories.

But there is a catch. The letter of October 1993 by then-foreign minister Peres to Norwegian foreign minister Johann Jergen Holst, which remained secret for months, opens up the possibility for Palestinian institutional, even quasi-governmental, activity in Jerusalem.

"I wish to confirm that the Palestinian institutions of East Jerusalem and the interests and well-being of the Palestinians of East Jerusalem are of great importance and will be preserved," Peres wrote.

"Therefore, all the Palestinian institutions of East Jerusalem, including the economic, social, educational and cultural, and the Christian and Moslem places, are performing an essential task for the Palestinian population."

"Needless to say, we will not hamper their activity," Peres concluded. "On the contrary, the fulfillment of this important mission is to be encouraged."

As a result, Palestinian institutions are maintaining their long-time links with the PLO, except now, after Oslo, the links are to the PA. In addition, the PA, its official Israeli-recognized offices just a few kilometers north of Jerusalem in Ramallah, now has the ability to move into areas it couldn't before.

The latest PA inroad, according to Israeli sources, is its funding of guards for Al-Aksa to strengthen its standing there. Most of the guards there continue to receive their salaries from Jordan.

PA security agents are also on duty on the Temple Mount, to protect the PA-appointed mufti, Akram Sabri, and PA Religious Minister Hassan Tahboub, who has an office just outside Al-Aksa, according to the sources.

The ministry's main office is in Ramallah, but Tahboub often receives foreign dignitaries in Jerusalem, including a Vatican delegation that came recently to discuss plans for the celebration of Jesus' 2,000th birthday, the sources said.

IN SEPTEMBER, the nonpartisan monitoring group Peace Watch listed 11 "institutions connected to

the PA in Jerusalem."

Peres said this week that three PA-affiliated organizations - the Palestinian Broadcasting Authority, Palestinian Bureau of Statistics and Palestinian Health Council - moved out of the city after being warned their operations there would not be tolerated.

Ziv Hellman, a senior researcher for Peace Watch, said Peres apparently is mistaken. The Health Council is still operating, although the PBS and PBA had apparently left Jerusalem for Ramallah, he said.

Israeli sources monitoring PA activity in Jerusalem said the PBA is also still operating its office in the city.

The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, located in Ramallah, according to Peace Watch's September list, is also now operating outside Jerusalem. That leaves 10 organizations affiliated with the PA operating in the capital, according to Peace Watch and Israeli sources.

The PA organizations include the Palestinian Housing Council, Palestinian Health Council, Palestinian Labor Office, Palestinian Water Authority, Palestinian Institute for the Wounded, Municipal Council of East Jerusalem, Orient House, Palestinian Energy Center, Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs, and Office of the Mufti.

The above organizations allegedly are connected both financially and administratively with the PA, although in some cases they deny this.

ORIENT HOUSE is by far the best known of the PA-affiliated institutions in Jerusalem, because of the widely publicized diplomatic activity there. But Israeli sources said Orient House is also the center of less-known quasi-governmental operations, including a "complaints department," which gives eastern Jerusalemites an alternative to the Israel Police for dealing with crime. The police are investigating.

The department, which has been under investigation by Israel Police, is one of the areas in which the PA-affiliated organizations, and other PA groups headquartered outside the city, touch directly on the lives of Jerusalem's Palestinian residents.

Many schools in east Jerusalem are supervised by PA education inspectors, and receive their curricula from the PA. Unless the government intervenes at the last moment, PA Education Ministry certificates will be given to all high-school graduates in eastern Jerusalem, municipal sources said.

Palestinian institutions of higher learning in Jerusalem are also

supervised by the PA's Council for Higher Education, located in Ramallah, according to Israeli sources.

In the area of security, the PA presence in eastern Jerusalem has been widely publicized. Last week, Palestinian Preventive Security agents were detained for kidnapping Jerusalem Palestinians and taking them to Ramallah for interrogation.

Jerusalem Police Chief Arye Amit said police have contained Palestinian police and security

work in Jerusalem. Other sources, both Palestinian and Israeli, however, said this is not the case, and that Palestinian security agents continue to operate in eastern Jerusalem.

The An-Nahar newspaper reported this week that senior Fatah set up a civil guard in the Old City that operated during Ramadan to help with crowd control. Jerusalem police sources downplayed the report.

With regard to Orient House, Internal Security Minister Moshe

Shahal issued a stern warning this week that meetings there with foreign ministers from other countries will no longer be tolerated. Peres also said he would not allow Orient House to serve as a PA foreign ministry.

As for other PA activity, just where the lines are to be drawn remains to be seen.

The government and the public, which the opposition has urged to make its voice heard on Jerusalem, have yet to take a clear stand.

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Direct elections won't end horse-trading

For the first time since the new "Basic Law: the Government" — popularly known as "The Law for the direct election of the prime minister" — was passed in March 1992, Israel is to have general elections in which both a new Knesset and a prime minister will be elected simultaneously. There is a good deal of confusion among the public as to what exactly to expect.

The most common question being asked is: what happens if Shimon Peres is elected as prime minister but the right-wing and religious parties together gain more than 60 of the 120 seats in the new Knesset, or alternatively, what happens if Benjamin Netanyahu is elected but Labor, Meretz and the Arab parties together gain a majority of seats?

The answer to this question is simple. Whoever is elected prime minister will have 45 days in which to form a government which enjoys the support of at least 61 MKs. His only other forms must include no fewer than eight ministers and no more than 18 — at least half of them Knesset members, and no more than six deputy ministers — all of them Knesset members.

If he can form a government with his "natural" partners, so much the better: if he cannot he is going to have to start "shopping" around. In such a situation both Peres and Netanyahu are likely to turn first of all to the three new middle-of-the-road parties: the Third Way, Yisrael Ba'aliya (Sharansky's party) and Geshet (David Levy's party), which together are likely to receive at least seven seats.

But what happens if after 45 days the elected prime minister does not manage to put a coalition together? In this situation special elections will be held. The new law defines "special elections" as elections for the prime minister without simultaneous elections for the Knesset.

One could imagine a situation in which Peres is elected prime minister, but the parties that prefer Netanyahu command a majority of Knesset seats, and believe that since the voters now know the make-up of the new Knesset they will change their mind on which prime minister to elect.

Susan Hattis Rolef examines the complications and consequences of the new electoral system

old system? In the past after elections, after the resignation of a government, the president invited representatives of all parties to his residence to inform him who each of them would like to see as prime minister. The president then invited the candidate with the best chances of forming a government to do so, irrespective of whether his party had the largest number of Knesset seats.

If the candidate failed after a certain stipulated period — as happened in the case of Peres, after the National Unity Government was brought down by a vote of no-confidence in March 1990 — the president turned to the leader of another party.

Under both systems, after the prime minister forms his government he must obtain the confidence of at least 61 Knesset members. This is an improvement on the current situation where a government can be brought down by a majority of those voting, but it does not strengthen the position of prime minister vis-a-vis the Knesset as the drafters of the law had hoped.

The new law provides for several situations in which special elections must be held, and several where new elections for both prime minister and Knesset will take place. Special elections will be held if the prime minister resigns, if he ceases to be a Knesset member, if a majority of the Knesset decides to remove him from office because he has been convicted of a disgraceful offense, if at least 80 Knesset members decide to remove him after the Knesset House Committee has reviewed such a proposal, if he dies or if he is

incapacitated to the extent of being unable to fulfill his duties. Under normal circumstances elections for the prime minister and Knesset will be held simultaneously every four years. Elections for the two will also be held if the Knesset brings the government down in a no-confidence vote, if the Knesset fails to pass the budget law by the end of March of the financial year to which the budget applies, and if the prime minister feels that he no longer commands a majority in the Knesset and decides to dissolve it, for which act he requires the consent of the president.

The provision about the budget law was put in since in such a situation the government would be unable to continue to function. What exactly the Israeli political system will gain from this new system is unclear. The original intention was to strengthen the prime minister at the expense of the Knesset and free him from the post-election horse-trading.

But the Knesset refused to pass the law as originally proposed. The only count on which the directly elected prime minister will be stronger than prime ministers in the past will be in that he will be able to claim that he has a direct mandate from the electorate to rule the country.

As to the horse-trading, not only does the new system not get rid of this distasteful activity, but it ensures that there will be two rounds of it.

The first will take place before the elections for the prime minister, when each of the candidates will want to secure the formal support of as many of the small parties as possible. The second will take place after one of the candidates is elected and he will have to secure the support of 61 Knesset members.

Whether or not the new system will be more stable than the old one is difficult to predict. It might be argued that stability cannot be won by means of constitutional manipulations such as the new "Basic Law: the Government."

In Israel's case stability will probably only be gained after its existential problems are resolved, and the issues that will determine how people vote are more basic ones than those with which the country is currently grappling.

Brace for a 'sweeping vote change'

If the population were to cast their votes the way the polls are showing today, the May 29 election could be the second revolutionary change in Israeli election history and the biggest shift since the 1977 election, veteran pollster Hanoch Smith concludes.

Ever since the Likud sweep of 1977, Smith says, the ensuing elections have essentially been stand-offs between the Labor Party and the Likud, with one party or the other eventually obtaining the keys to forming a coalition.

But if Labor manages to hold onto its momentum as reflected in the polls, the result could be the first truly sweeping election in years.

Whether this actually happens depends on the voting of a few key groups. As the politicians grandstand for the cameras, pollsters like Smith are carefully watching them. Most Israelis, they have concluded, have already made up their minds: either they are for the current Labor-led government and its policies or against it. It is the undecided groups of voters that interest them.

"The majority of people are already dug in," Smith says. "It's the people who are moving between the camps who are the decisive factor."

Smith identifies the most important population group voting this year as young people casting their ballots for the first time. First-time voters are a huge group whose numbers have substantially increased since the 1992 election. The number of voters this spring is expected to top 3 million, an increase of 400,000 over 1992.

Youth are of particular interest to Smith because they appear to have been the group most influenced by the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. This group was polling 60%-40% in favor of the Likud before the assassination. Since the assassination, Smith says, the statistics have been nearly reversed in Labor's favor.

"What we don't yet know is how fundamental this shift in attitude really is," he notes. Gallup Israel's Yankele Levy attributes less importance to the youth vote than does Smith. "I don't think the youth vote is going to be critical, because they won't vote as a bloc," he says, indicating that the youth will be as split as the rest of the population.

Pollsters are divided over how the swing vote will affect the outcome of the elections, Allison Kaplan-Sommer writes

Arab and haredi populations — are expected to balance each other out in the tug-of-war between the left and right.

Among the religious, there has been very little shift from the right to the left since the assassination, the pollsters say.

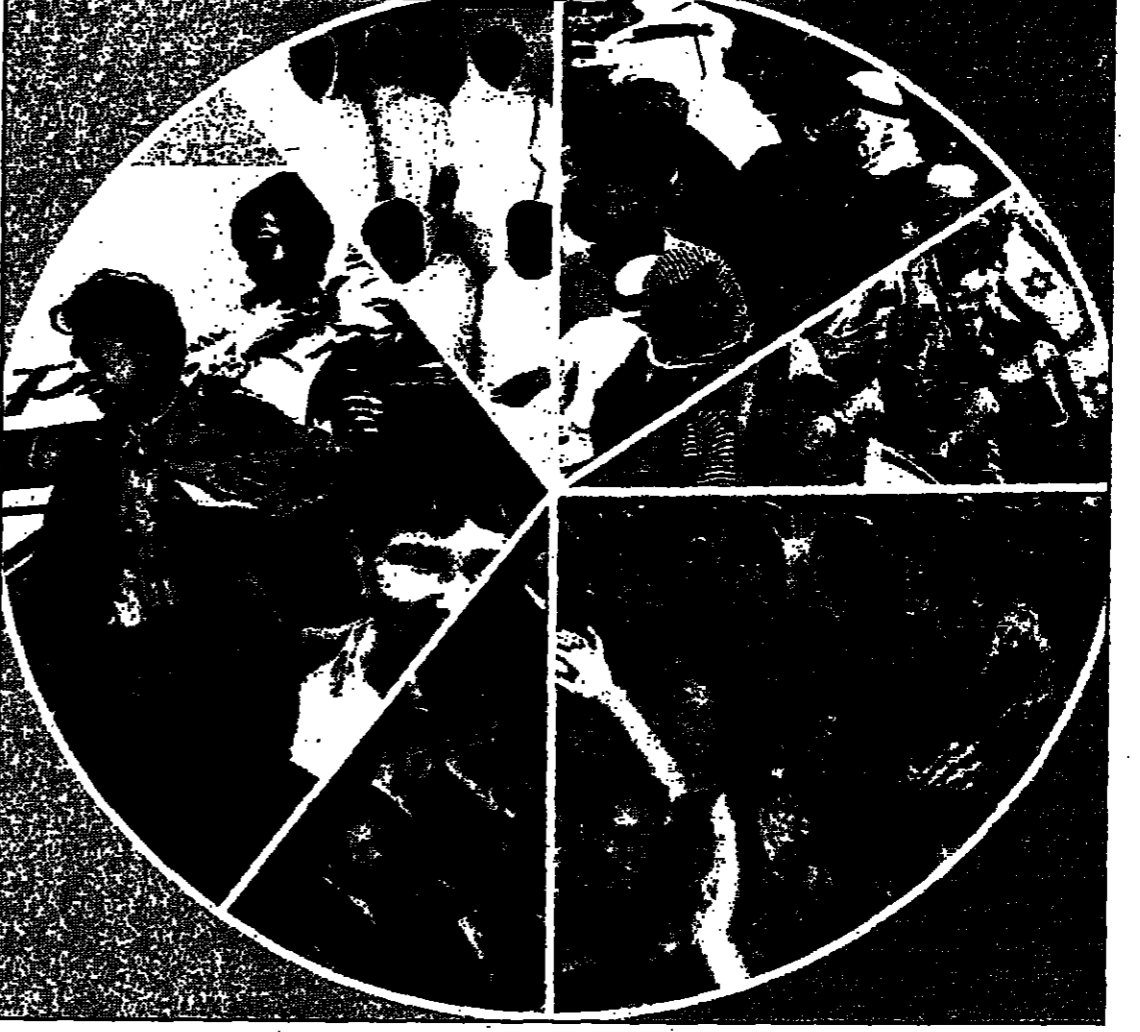
Smith notes there is another group of potential swing voters: traditional Likud supporters who

year there are more of them. Dr. Baron Fein, of the Tazpitz Institute, who specializes in the Russian immigrant population, says while 240,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union were eligible voters in 1992, this year there are 450,000 eligible voters.

Fein also notes that this population has changed since 1992. "They are better organized and

society that they are sophisticated now," Fein says. "I think they have been disappointed with the Israeli perception that they are not well-educated, that their engineers are not real engineers, and their doctors are not real doctors. They want to show the Israelis they are not as backward as they might have thought — that they are educated and qualified to lead."

The question of how Russian immigrants will vote in the prime-ministerial race is an even greater mystery. The reluctance of the immigrant party to identify itself with the right or the left is part of that strategy, he says. "By staying in the middle they will have more bargaining room," reasons Fein.



voted Labor in 1992 because of Rabin's personal appeal. The question is whether they will stay with Labor or go back to the Likud. Pollsters are in wide agreement that the biggest question mark over the election is the way immigrants will vote. The enormous increase in the number of immigrants, particularly from the former Soviet Union, has been the biggest difference between the 1990, 1992 and previous elections. The Russian vote is expected to be greater than the Arab vote — making up 11 to 13% of the ballots cast. But unlike the Arab vote, the haredi vote, or any other bloc, the Russian vote is completely unpredictable.

"We tend to think that the Russians are basically oriented toward voting against the government in power," says Smith, explaining the group's vote for Labor in the 1992 election. Still, there is little certainty that they will necessarily move toward the Likud this year. And besides, this

He is currently working on trying to predict whom the Russian immigrants will support for prime minister. "We've found that the immigrants are more right-wing oriented" than the general population, he says, but notes he has not polled enough of them to reach any definite conclusions.

When it comes to voting directly for prime minister, the entire country belongs to the group of first-time voters. Will votes for prime minister fall in line with Knesset votes, or like voters in the United States, will the ambivalent middle split their votes, favoring one bloc for the Knesset and another for prime minister?

Smith says that since Rabin's assassination, he's seen the possibility of vote-splitting. "I believe the assassination has caused this to become two separate campaigns. Up until the assassination there was no inconsistency between how people said they would vote for the Knesset or prime minister. Those who supported the government supported the prime minister, those who opposed the government, opposed him."

"Following the assassination, there was a slight change. There is now a certain percentage of people who will vote Likud and Peres," Smith says.

Another post-assassination trend: a gravitation away from smaller parties toward the larger ones. "The tendency since the assassination is for people to rally to the big parties in their camp. In both camps there is a tendency for the larger parties to poll numbers away from the smaller. This may have a lot to do with the shock that has gone through the society since the assassination — the need to rally together."

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10:00 - 18:00

10:00 **Eshwan Abu Ayyash** - Chairman, Palestinian Broadcast Authority
10:20 **Dr. Peres Ben-Zvi** - Former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem
10:40 **Dr. Benjamin Shapira** - Prof. of International Law, An Najah University
11:00 **Father Thomas Strassky** - Rector, Tantur Ecumenical Institute
11:20 **M.R. Ziad Abu Zayyad** - Attorney, Elected Member of the Palestinian Council
11:40 **Prof. Richard Kossman** - Geography Department, Tel Aviv University
12:00 **Dr. Ali Qleibo** - Anthropologist, Author and Artist
12:20 **Toddy Kollek** - Former Mayor of Jerusalem
12:40 **Canon Dr. Naim Abook** - Priest of the Palestinian Congregation, St. George's Cathedral
13:00 BREAK
14:00 **Dr. Mordechai Baron** - Historian, Former M.K.
14:20 **Prof. Sami Nasselbeh** - President, Al Quds University
14:40 **Rabbi David Rosen** - Former Chief Rabbi of Ireland
15:00 **H. E. Pineda de Dios** - Member, PIA
15:20 **Uri Armony** - Author and Journalist
15:40 **Prof. Bernard Sabella** - Dept. of Sociology, Bethlehem University
16:00 **Prof. Tsvi Rabin** - Chairman, Hebrew Shalom
16:20 **Dr. Anis al Qas** - Deputy Minister of International Cooperation, PIA
16:40 **Dr. Elad al Haddi** - Prof. of Engineering, Birzeit University
17:00 **Prof. Salim Nassar** - Dept. of Geography, Hebrew University
17:20 **Hanna Shalita** - Publisher, Businessman
17:40 **Sarah Kaminer** - Urban Planner, Former Member Jerusalem City Council

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Hatred marks paper trail

Pat Buchanan has toned down his comments, but hasn't backed down, Elli Wohlgeleit reports

PAT Buchanan's upset victory in the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday has once again focused heightened attention on the man and his words, and on the people surrounding him in his campaign. When two staffers in two days last week had to step down for questions that were raised over their ties to white supremacists, it came as no surprise to Jews here and in the US who remembered what Buchanan used to say and write, before he toned down his rhetoric when he began running for president in 1992.

It goes back to the 1970s, when what began as a trickle — a suicide comment here, a hard-line position advocated there — soon started snowballing until, on the eve of the Gulf war in 1990, a mini-war broke out over flagrant and vicious antisemitic comments made by Buchanan.

To recap a few: In 1976, when the Ford administration proposed selling arms to Egypt, Buchanan urged Congress not to "hearken... to the counsel of the Jewish lobby and its Washington representative, Henry Jackson."

In 1977, when president Jimmy Carter endorsed legislation against the Arab boycott of Israel, Buchanan objected and warned that Israel would be blamed as a result when Americans lost their jobs.

He later maintained that Americans were asking "why the US is siding with three million Israelis instead of 100 million Arabs who have oil."

In 1981, he wrote, "Many Americans are growing bone-weary with carrying the diplomatic, economic and military cost of underwriting Menachem Begin's policies."

Throughout the 1980s, Buchanan exhibited a fiery and indignant pose in a campaign to defend former Nazis, whom he said were and however evil their prior deeds.

As early as 1977, he wrote of Hitler: "Though Hitler was indeed racist and antisemitic to the core, a man who without compunction could commit murder and genocide, he was also an individual of great courage, a soldier's soldier in the Great War, a political organizer of the first rank, a leader steeped in the history of Europe, who possessed oratorical powers that could awe even those who despised him."

From this followed his strong defense of Nazi criminals, and his denunciation of the US Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which pursues Nazi criminals: "You've got a great atrocity that occurred 35, 40 years ago... Why... put millions of dollars [into] investigating that?"

There were other remarks he made about targets of war-crimes allegations, including:

• When the US apologized to France for sheltering Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon," Buchanan complained: "To what end all this wallowing in the atrocities of a dead regime?"

• He campaigned against the deportation to the Soviet Union of Karl Linmas, who ran a Nazi death camp in Estonia, when the US Court of Appeals ruled that there was overwhelming evidence of his guilt.

• On the isolating of Kurt Waldheim: "The ostracism of Kurt Waldheim [has] an aspect of moral bullying and the singular stench of selective indignation."

• And of course, there was his spirited defense of Ivan Demjanjuk and his statement that he could never get a fair trial in Israel.

ALAN RYAN Jr., former head of OSI at the Justice Department, said then that "Pat Buchanan is going to bat for any Nazi war criminal in the US," and called him "the spokesman for Nazi war criminals in America. His campaign on behalf of these people is so infused with distortions and misrepresentations of the facts that it's almost impossible to engage in any sort of response. He simply piles lie upon inaccuracy upon surmise upon personal attack."

Not content to defend Nazis, Buchanan shifted to questioning aspects of the Holocaust. Gas chambers could not have killed human beings, he wrote, because "in 1988, 97 kids, trapped 400 feet underground in a Washington, DC, tunnel while two locomotives spewed diesel exhaust into the car, emerged unharmed."

And finally, an attempt was made to discredit survivors themselves. "Since the war, 1,600 medical papers have been written on 'The Psychological and Medical Effects of the Concentration Camps on Holocaust Survivors.' This so-called 'Holocaust Survivor Syndrome' involves

"group fantasies of martyrdom and heroics."

Writing in the January 1991 issue of *Commentary*, Joshua Muravchik responded: "What can Buchanan possibly be talking about here? Can he furnish a bibliography of, say, the first 100 of these '1,600 medical papers'? And do quotation marks diminish the sewer-level bigotry of the reference to 'fantasies of martyrdom'?"

His antisemitic and anti-Israel statements continued to build over the years.

• He called the Democratic Party the "diapered poodle of... the Israeli lobby."

• called Capitol Hill in Washington "Israeli-occupied territory."

• called the massacre of Palestinians by Lebanese Christians in Sabra and Shatilla the "Rosh Hashana Massacre," and that "the Israeli army is looking toward a blackening of its name to rival what happened to the French army in the Dreyfus affair."

• said of the Vietnamese "Boat People": "Can one imagine what a cauldron of boiling rage the Senate would be if — instead of Vietnamese — there were Jews in those boats?"

• in protesting the alleged blasphemy of the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*, asked: "Would [Jack] Valenti, chief executive officer of the Motion Picture Association of America] employ his eloquence to defend a film portraying Anne Frank as an oversexed teenager fantasizing at Auschwitz on romancing some SS guards?"

He also chided *The New York Times* for not criticizing the film strongly enough: "We have a 'newspaper of record' that can sniff out antisemitism in some guy turning down a kosher hot dog at the ballpark."

• In the protest over the Catholic convent at Auschwitz, Buchanan wrote on September 24, 1989: "The slumbering giant of Catholicism, may we, about to awaken... When Cardinal John O'Connor seeks to soothe the always irate Elie Wiesel by reassuring him that 'there are many Catholics who are antisemitic... It's deep within them,' when he declares this 'is not a fight between Catholics and Jews,' he speaks for himself. Be not afraid, your eminence; just step aside, there are bishops and priests ready to assume the role of defender of the faith."

• When president George Bush asked Congress to delay for four months the \$10 billion in loan guarantees, Buchanan wrote on September 18, 1991: "Even if his veto of the guarantees is overridden, he will have won high marks for courage and exposed Congress for what it has become, a Parliament of Whores incapable of standing up for US national interests. If [the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee] is on the other end of the line."

Perhaps his most outrageous statement came shortly after Iraq's Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. On the CNN show *The McLaughlin Group* of August 26, 1990, two months after he made the comment on the same program about Congress being "Israeli-occupied territory," Buchanan made this infamous remark:

"There are only two groups that are beating the drums for war in the Middle East: the Israeli Defense Ministry and its amen corner in the US."

The remark generated an outpouring of condemnation from Jewish groups across America. It was a new kind of charge from Buchanan, one that Anti-Defamation League national director Abraham Foxman said lifted Buchanan's "characteristic anti-Israel rhetoric to new and graver heights."

Later in the program, Buchanan said: "The Israelis want this war desperately because they want the US to destroy the Iraqi war machine. They want us to finish them off. They don't care about our relationship with the Arab world."

Refuting the charge of antisemitism, Buchanan said: "Were I expressing such views... I wouldn't have lasted 10 minutes in a profession where I have reveled, on and off, for 30 years. The newspapers that carry the Buchanan column don't print hate literature."

The charge of antisemitism, he wrote, "is used to frighten, intimidate, censor and silence; to cut off debate; to smear men's reputations; to scar men so indelibly that no one will ever look at them again without saying, 'Say, isn't he an antisemite?'"

But Matt Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group, said that Jews shouldn't fear Buchanan's nomination because it will simply not happen.

"He will not be the nominee of



Pat Buchanan, who once pleaded guilty to assaulting 2 policemen, admits he was arrested 'an awful lot of times' in his youth. (AP)

GOP Jews keep eye on Buchanan

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

TV commentator Pat Buchanan scored an impressive win on Tuesday in the New Hampshire primary for the Republican nomination. According to exit polls, he had successfully tapped into voters' fears about America destroying itself economically and morally.

Jewish Republicans say they see no evidence of Buchanan playing the antisemitism card yet. They also expect the candidate's tense relations with the Jewish community to be revisited as the campaign progresses.

But they warned against interpreting Buchanan's success in a few early state votes — he also won Republican caucuses in Louisiana and Alaska and finished second in Iowa — to mean that voters identify with his alleged antisemitic views.

"Those persons who voted for Buchanan haven't done so because of any affinity with his antisemitic, in quotes, statements. They voted for him because of deep unhappiness with and uncertainty over their own economic situation, and because he won't waffle on moral issues," said Marshall Brogan, a law professor at Catholic University who served as the White House's liaison to the Jewish community under then-president Ronald Reagan, where he worked for Buchanan.

"This is a big problem for Jews because for about 12 years we've been demonizing him and the Republicans are mainstreaming him. Clearly what we don't want as Jews is for people who support him to feel they are being attacked when we attack him."

Buchanan's strong showings thus far have occurred in states with minuscule Jewish populations, so little organized protest against his candidacy has occurred.

According to Gary Wallin, a Jewish Republican activist in Manchester, Buchanan said nothing in New Hampshire that would have inflamed Jewish passions. Several times Buchanan spoke against American foreign aid — a common theme — but never about assistance to Israel in particular, Wallin said.

The state's small Jewish community, which Wallin estimated numbered fewer than 10,000 and he said was in any case predominantly Democratic, had not mobilized against him because they "just figured Buchanan was a ferret wacko and wouldn't have a chance to win."

But Buchanan did win. And he is now being accused by his vanquished opponents, including Republican Senate leader Robert Dole, the former front-runner who finished second in the crucial New Hampshire voting, of sowing fear and xenophobia among the electorate.

In the campaign to date, Buchanan has spoken out often on a familiar theme: shutting off illegal immigration by erecting a fence along the American-Mexican border.

It is that position, among others, that convinced Jewish Republicans that Buchanan has excluded himself as a viable candidate.

But Matt Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group, said that Jews shouldn't fear Buchanan's nomination because it will simply not happen.

"He will not be the nominee of

the party," Brooks said. "His views are so outside the mainstream of the party right now — his views on a fortress America, isolationism, the Holocaust, etc."

Brooks said that when claiming victory on Tuesday night in Manchester, Buchanan himself predicted he will come under greater attack as the campaign season proceeds.

Already, coverage of Buchanan's checkered past is intensifying this week. A *Washington Post* profile on Monday of the 1990s Washington, D.C., in which Buchanan grew up, included an accusation by some Jews that back then Buchanan and his brothers picked fights with Jewish kids.

The *Post* reporter wrote that "Buchanan himself describes Western Avenue in those days as 'a Via Dolorosa lined with bullies threatening children on their way home' from school."

And NBC's *Today* show on Tuesday reported that while in college, Buchanan pleaded guilty to assaulting two policemen after being stopped for allegedly speeding. In an interview on the program, Buchanan admitted to having been arrested "an awful lot of times" in his youth.

Breger said Jews should view Buchanan critically but ought not to dismiss him out-of-hand as a Jew-hater.

He pointed to Buchanan's having labeled a hero Aaron Feuerstein, whose Lawrence, Massachusetts, factory burned down early this winter. Feuerstein, an Orthodox Jew, pledged to rebuild the factory rather than start over somewhere else, thus saving scores of blue-collar jobs.

"All the candidates could've focused on him but didn't," Buchanan did," Breger said.

The saga of Yevgeny Primakov

FM Ehud Barak has his work cut out for him during an upcoming visit to Moscow with his Russian counterpart, Moshe Zak writes



HIS father was named Finkelstein and he came from Kiev; his mother was from the Kirshenblatt family of Tbilisi. Today he is Russia's foreign minister.

He is not the first Russian foreign minister of Jewish origin. Two of his predecessors changed their Jewish names: Lev Bronstein became Leon Trotsky, Meir Wallach became Maxim Litvinov. Now Yona Finkelstein is Yevgeny Primakov.

Yevgeny lost his father when he was two, and his mother married an Armenian doctor. It's unlikely he learned anything about Judaism in his stepfather's home.

Specializing in Arabic at the Institute for Middle East Studies in Moscow, he was influenced by Vladimir Lutzki, a professor at the institute, famous for his articles attacking the newly-established State of Israel. Those who remembered Lutzki as a young man who lived in a shack on Tel Aviv's beach where, in the 1920s, arguments raged on Marxist doctrine, were surprised to hear he had become a professor in Moscow.

In a 1949 article, Lutzki blandly stated that Israel had banded over the port of Tel Aviv to be an American military base. That was the spirit at the Middle East Institute in those days, and it certainly impressed Primakov, who joined it after years in Cairo as *Pravda's* Near East correspondent. In that capacity he visited all the Arab countries, carefully bypassing Israel so as not to anger his Arab superiors.

When he did come to Tel Aviv in 1975 as president Brezhnev's envoy to then-premier Yitzhak Rabin, he stipulated that his visit must be secret. Last year, as head of the Russian foreign intelligence service, Primakov offered his services as a mediator between Israel and Syria — but prime minister Yitzhak Rabin rejected the offer.

PRIMAKOV'S FIRST meeting with an official Israeli envoy occurred in September 1971.

One drizzly morning, on a crowded Vienna street, two men met. One was holding a copy of the Paris edition of the *International Herald Tribune*, the other was carrying the *Vienna Kurier*. The front pages faced outward in both papers.

The Israeli enquired, "Mr. Primakov?" and the Russian replied, "Mr. Gazit?"

They then approached a "safe house" for a secret meeting: Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev's emissary and Golda Meir's envoy Mordechai Gazit.

Gazit asked him what his position was in the Soviet hierarchy.

Primakov believed Israel's interest was to prevent the regional conflict from going global — and for that it needed Soviet cooperation.

Primakov did not describe his job, but replied briefly, "Whatever I say is on behalf of the Soviet leadership." He was not exaggerating. Shortly after he published his plan for a Middle East settlement in *Pravda*, Brezhnev submitted it to US president Richard Nixon.

Primakov proposed his idea of an international conference to settle the Israeli-Arab conflict. It became the Soviet trademark in the region.

The Vienna meeting was held after two air incidents. An Israeli reconnaissance plane had been downed by the Egyptians near the Suez Canal, its seven crewmen killed. Israel retaliated by shooting down an Egyptian Sukhoi plane which was taking photos over Sinai. These incidents provided the takeoff point for Primakov: "A plane of yours has been shot down and you reacted. The danger of a general flare-up has increased. Let's examine how we can ensure peace in the region."

He then laid out his plan for a withdrawal by the Israeli forces from all the territories, in return for Soviet recognition of the June 4, 1967, borders; until then, the USSR had refused to recognize them as Israel's permanent frontiers.

THE SECOND secret meeting, also in Vienna, took place the following year. It came after Egyptian president Anwar Sadat had announced the expulsion of Soviet experts from his country. Israel wanted to know how this could be reconciled with the ongoing flow of Soviet weapons to Egypt.

Between the meetings, Primakov published an article critical of Israel for condition-

ing its withdrawal from the Suez Canal zone on the end of the state of war with Egypt. He wrote, "Israeli politicians tried to extract a promise from Egypt for an indefinite ceasefire, which would mean giving support for the Palestinian struggle." In this vein, he tried to convince his Israeli interlocutor to give up the demand for nonbelligerency and agree to a meaningful withdrawal in Sinai.

The Geneva Conference convened after the 1973 Yom Kippur War relieved Moscow of the need to seek a secret communication channel with Israel. In 1975, after US secretary of state Henry Kissinger had finessed the Soviets out of the Geneva process, Primakov's star rose once more. He asked his Mossad contacts for a meeting with premier Rabin.

In deepest secrecy, Primakov and his entourage were housed in an obscure hotel near the Shalom Tower in Tel Aviv. Primakov had come to meet Rabin and deputy premier Yigal Alon on the assumption that a deep rift had opened between Jerusalem and Washington over talks with Egypt.

He perceived the crisis with Kissinger over the Sinai 2 agreement as an opportunity for a Soviet initiative, but was very surprised when Rabin rejected his proposal to reconvene the Geneva Conference, with the USSR attending. Rabin told him "I have no intention of quitting the path we agreed with Kissinger."

Before he left Israel, Primakov's aide Yuri Kutov, called — from the airport — a contact in Jerusalem to complain about a leak in an Israeli (Continued on Page 14)

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Hamas has a future if it cooperates with Fatah

The party's strategy of boycotting the Palestinian elections while encouraging certain candidates to run appears to have succeeded, Jon Immanuel reports

DOWN, but not out, Hamas has emerged from a pummeling in the elections refreshed by Ramadan. It is preparing to form an Islamic-democratic coalition in the elected council and then launch a comeback in municipal elections.

Its ability to stand at all after more than 80 percent of the voters supported an election that Hamas said would be determined by non-voters is baffling. But its strategy of boycotting the elections, while at the same time encouraging some candidates to run, maintained an ambiguity that allowed the movement to stay together.

About 10 members of the 88-seat council are either Islamists or favor implementing Islamic law. This is hardly a majority, but if Hamas had run openly with better-known candidates, it would not have won many more seats and may have split into factions for and against Oslo.

This way, despite tensions between "moderates" and "radicals," Hamas remains formally outside the council, committed to its old anti-peace plan and has retained the right to commit violent acts while using the Islamist council members to try and radicalize the forum.

The most prominent Islamist in the council actually ran on the Fatah ticket but insists he is not beholden to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for putting him there. "I am not a Fatah member. I was an Islamic independent in the Fatah coalition," says Imad Falouji, former editor of the Hamas weekly *Al-Watan*.

He has been a frequent Hamas-Fatah go-between and appears to be something of an unofficial scout for Hamas. He even crossed the Green Line into Israel last month to attend a peace award ceremony.

Falouji does not see Islamists as his only natural allies. He has met with Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, who is closer to communism than to Islam, "to work for democracy," he says. "Why not, I think Islam and democracy are the same."

DESPITE his official expulsion by Hamas officials abroad for choosing to run in the election, Falouji says his relations with Hamas in Gaza are good. He has not been threatened, and it is unlikely that a go-between would operate without consulting others. His attitude toward peace talks may be a touch more liberal than the one publicly enunciated by Hamas, but it is a little more hawkish than that of the most radical Fatah members.

If Israel agrees to "our minimum demands" to withdraw to the 1967 borders and dismantle settlements, "I can agree at this stage to recognize Israel," he says.

The return of 1948 refugees remains a right, but he reveals a certain flexibility when he says "everyone can choose whether to come back or take compensation."

For a former editor of *Al-Watan* to talk of recognition, and not just "a cease-fire," is a verbal leap, though wrapped in the ambiguous phrase "at this stage."

How important is Hamas opinion now? Hamas continues



A child is flanked by two women at a Hamas rally in Hebron. The main difference between Fatah and Hamas is the division of power and how to make peace with Israel. (Khaled Zighan)

to assert it has the support of 40% of West Bank and Gaza Palestinians. At a press conference in Al-Birah three weeks ago, senior West Bank Hamas personalities insisted they won the election. Hamas said 51% of those eligible were non-voters by using a complicated feat of numerical engineering which exaggerated the number of spoiled votes and empty ballots and subtracted alleged double votes by police and Fatah supporters.

HAMAS refused to recognize the test of the council elections, but it cannot avoid the test of municipal elections, scheduled tentatively for May or June, around the same time that Arafat must change the Palestinian charter.

Local elections are important, because Hamas considers them "social," not "political," and the movement believes in achieving power by building its influence from the bottom of the social pyramid.

If Hamas were to lose by a landslide in local elections, it is difficult to imagine any future for it. Hamas may therefore have to start preparing itself for these elections by showing that its surrogates in the council are concerned with the basic issues of their voters — the economy, public morality, education and other non-political issues.

A mood of realism is therefore creeping into the Hamas camp, and with little compromise it can reflect views close to the heart of Palestinian society, which is essentially conservative and religious in nature.

For example, in a recent poll by the Palestinian Jerusalem Media and Communication Center, the response of Hamas supporters to some key questions were surprisingly similar to those of Fatah voters. Concerning the much-touted issues of basic civil rights, 42% of Hamas voters said there is "no need to integrate personal status laws in the Palestinian

constitution," while 43% of Fatah voters felt the same way. And when the same people were asked to explain why, 89% of Hamas voters and 91% of Fatah voters said "religious law is sufficient."

The main difference between Hamas and Fatah has been over the division of power in Palestinian society and how to make peace with Israel.

Both have been settled for the time being with the election results.

"Everyone is now saying: Arafat began the peace process, so he is the one who must carry it through," said Alaa Masbarawi, a journalist considered close to the Islamic movement. "Hamas is convinced that military operations are no longer useful. They feel they have no power in the street."

The huge demonstrations in Gaza after the killing of Hamas bomb-maker Yihya Ayyash were encouraged by the Palestinian Authority itself to distance itself from blame.

This does not mean Hamas or its armed wing, Izzadin Kassam, will end violence.

But if Hamas bombed Israelis largely to send a message to Arafat, as Arafat's aides used to say, there should be less reason for such "messages" now. The attitude of Fatah and Hamas to the final talks will be much closer than to the intermediate talks.

Arafat's "maximum position" and the "minimum position" of Hamas will be total Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

With Fatah-Hamas unity thus close, Arafat will exploit it both to strengthen himself and his bargaining position with Israel. He will start with a radical new charter on Palestinian national rights up to the Green Line, which will replace the old charter Arafat is obliged to change.

This should silence his critics, but may limit his negotiating flexibility.

TRAIL

(Continued from Page 9)

Buchanan confessed in that column that "yes, a change has taken place" in his attitude toward Israel as compared with the time "from June of '67... until I went back into the White House in 1985," a time he claimed to be "an uncritical apologist for Israel, a Begin man all the way, defending everything from the attack on the Iraqi reactor to the invasion of Lebanon. I thought they were terrific friends."

"And yes, a change has taken place. For many reasons. Among them: The manipulation of the traitor Jonathan Pollard to systematically loot the secrets of the most generous friend Israel will ever have. The gratuitous brutality against Palestinian old men, women, teenagers and children. The Good Friday land grab at the

Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The shipment of cluster bombs to the Stalinist Mengistu regime in Ethiopia. The caustic, cutting cracks about my church and the popes from both Israel and its amen corner in the US."

Foxman issued a statement saying, "While Buchanan's attack on Jews and Israel are nothing new, they appear to be an obsession. He is obsessed with Jonathan Pollard, but not with the Walker spy ring. Obsessed with the deaths of Palestinians who are waging war on the Jewish state, but not with the cold-blooded mustard-gas massacre of 5,000 Iraqi Kurds by Saddam Hussein. He dismisses the murder of millions of Jews during the Holocaust but derides the Office of Special Investigations for pursuing Nazi war criminals.... He claims that the newspapers

that carry his column 'do not print hate literature.' True, they rarely do. But today, every newspaper which ran Pat Buchanan crossed that boundary."

Among the papers carrying his column that day was the *New York Post*. In an unprecedented display of criticism, an editorial by editorial editor Eric Breindel, appearing opposite Buchanan's column, cited his previous antisemitic remarks and innuendos, and explained why the paper felt it had to publicly distance itself from one of its own regular columnists:

"What concerns us is Buchanan's attitude toward Jews as a group. When homosexual activists demonstrated against John Cardinal O'Connor at St. Patrick's Cathedral, desecrating that sacred place, Buchanan wrote a blistering column denouncing the demonstra-

tion.... Indeed, the condemnation, in this instance, was widespread.

"But only Buchanan managed, somehow, to drag Jews into the discussion. He chided *The New York Times* for relegating its news story on the St. Patrick's incident to Page B3. And he asked rhetorically whether the *Times* would have been so restrained 'had a synagogue been so desecrated.'"

"How did synagogues enter the picture? Was it impossible for Buchanan to write a column about the sacrilege at St. Patrick's Cathedral without a snide reference to synagogues?"

It concluded: "When it comes to Jews as a group — not Israel, not US-Israeli relations, not individual Jews — Buchanan betrays an all-too-familiar hostility." A month later on *The McLaughlin Group*, Buchanan lashed back at the ADL,

saying the organization, in a "pre-planned, orchestrated smear campaign," was calling newspapers around the country and "threatening them" if they didn't cease publications of his column, which was being carried by 180 newspapers.

The ADL denied calling "a single editor to request the removal of Buchanan's column, nor would we. Buchanan knows that, and he knows the league is against censorship of any kind." Buchanan, Foxman said, "employed the same 'big lie' tactics perfected by the Nazis during World War II."

Buchanan continued his Israel-bashing after the Gulf war. On March 13, 1991, he wrote: "Israel is not Syria, she is not Iraq, she is not Iran. But she is not our 'strategic asset' either."

"As the Gulf war demonstrated, she is a strategic albatross draped

around the neck of the US."

The New Republic, on October 15, 1990, wrote: "The virulence of Buchanan's comments on the Jews, the indifference to evidence, the inflated rhetoric, the rich conspiratorial imagination, the mystical certainty of rightness, the appetite for enemies, are not characteristic only of his opinions about Israel and the Jews. He is a connoisseur of intolerance. It is proof of the tolerance of America; if proof is needed, that this disgraceful man ranges through the corridors of power and lives in our midst as a star."

When his campaign for the 1992 election got under way, Buchanan's rhetoric softened, and continued in that manner while he waited to run again this year.

"He's a different person today in terms of what he's saying,"

Foxman said yesterday. "The language is a lot different. He used to speak of Christian values, Christian America. Now it's Judeo-Christian values. But the baggage of the past is still with him. He has not apologized for his anti-Israel, antisemitic and Holocaust-denial statements. He has not retracted them and he has not repudiated them."

The Jewish community, Foxman said, "is concerned, and will be concerned, but there is no panic yet."

He said he didn't think "a racist" will be able to maintain the support of the mainstream, "but the problem so far has been that 'the media has not asked the questions yet. He has not been challenged. If he moves into the mainstream, the media will seriously challenge him, and then will see the response of the American public.'"

JERUSALEM CORRIDOR EMERGENCY APPEAL

Support The Jerusalem Post Funds Emergency Appeal to restore the communities and forests of the Jerusalem corridor. The appeal will run until the end of April, 1996.

THE PROBLEM:

The fire, last summer, the worst in the country's history, devastated the Jerusalem Corridor, destroyed dozens of homes, community properties and businesses, killed hundreds of animals, domestic and wild, injured nearly fifty people, and ravaged thousands of dunams of prime forest between Sha'ar Hagai and Neve Ilan.

Some 2 million trees were destroyed, and the forests — some planted even before the founding of the State — will take decades to return to their former glory.



ISRAEL SUN

THE SOLUTION:

We appeal to our readers and friends around the world to rush donations as quickly as possible, so that they can be used in the great rebuilding plans now being implemented for this area. The management of The Jerusalem Post Funds is allocating monies to help Shoshon and Neve Ilan rebuild community projects but millions of shekels are needed to clear the devastated areas, rebuild and repair the picnic and leisure sites, and plant trees. We appeal for your support.

Send checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds/Emergency Appeal, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Or phone, or mail a VISA credit card donation to Fax. 02-241212. More information from Beverlee Black, 02-233986.

'Economist' editor responds to criticism

DEAR David Bar-Ilan:

You've just spent two huge articles accusing *The Economist* and me - I run the bit of it that covers your region - of anti-Israel bias, imbalance, journalistic malpractice, and worse. Most of your readers don't see our paper. They may believe your version. They would be wrong.

Your own idea of "balance" hardly helps the truth, does it? You quote 15 inches of an attack on us by CAMERA, a hyper-hawkish US pressure group, and a few well-deserved epithets from my reply - but not one of the facts I pointed out. A 15-minute call to me to check, perhaps? You did not pick up the phone. So much for Bar-Ilan, lecturer in journalistic ethics - or even basic skills.

If truth does not interest you, let me supply some.

Fiction 1: that we are "anti-Israeli." Fact: sure, we criticize its government; so do we Britain's or America's. We savaged Begin's Lebanon war; we think Rabin's settlement policy was mistaken. Do no Israelis agree? But on the basic issue we do not and could not waver: I quote our lead editorial on the Oslo accord: "Israel has as solid a right to exist, secure and recognized, as the United States." This from the pen, mine, of an alleged "most dedicated champion" of the Palestinians,

and a paper that you claim "seems to take its cut from Edward Said."

So why would we welcome a Palestinian state? One, because we believe Palestinians have a right to peace and security (and land, and water) just as Israelis do. That belief I'm happy to champion. Your US friends plainly reject it. And you?

Second, precisely because we want peace and security for Israel. Five wars have not brought that. We think a more hopeful way. You prefer settlements and an occupation army. We may be wrong. But, right or wrong, we hold our view (as you do yours) in good faith - and (unlike you) in goodwill to both parties.

Fiction number 2: that we don't criticize Arafat and his side. Once, you allow, we printed "veiled criticism of Arafat, something bordering on heresy in the magazine's pages." Fact: a week earlier, we wrote of him: "dictatorial, his finger in every pie, relying on tough policemen and corrupt cronies." Veiled? Heresy?

Fiction 3: that we slant news to aid our views. Fact: we report both sides - and that is what you and CAMERA really dislike - as fully and fairly as we can. That wasn't always easy. Pre-"Oslo," one side was a people under occupation, its organizations banned, its leaders far away and out of touch. Now we (and

EYE ON THE MEDIA GUEST COLUMNIST: STEPHEN HUGH-JONES

others) can get fuller and more accurate news; ask any news editor. Your denision of the fact proves only your own ignorance of news gathering.

We now have, as ever, a correspondent in Jerusalem; and, since Oslo, one in Gaza/Hebron. (The one is Israeli and Jewish, the other neither Arab nor Moslem. What "bias" does that show?) Neither is perfect - who is? - but even if they were, neither could fully report the world as it looks from the other side, and we don't expect it. Would you? Try covering Pakistan from India, or vice versa.

What both men are is honest. More so than most attacks on them. Thus, you allege we reported the Palestinian elections were fraudulent. We didn't. We didn't even cite the foreign observers' view that they were acceptably free and fair; odd that that omission did not worry you. Did we "scrupulously avoid" mention of electoral fraud? We could have printed rumors - except that the two serious cases were not confirmed (still less, fresh votes ordered, which you drag in on top) till after we went to press.

Fiction 4: that we deliberately omit stories or details unfavorable to the Palestinians. Fact: we don't carry everything - not from bias, but because we can't. You and CAMERA offer lists of

Omissions. Any Arab could match them. The reply to both is that my "International" section has five pages (small pages, weekly) for the entire Middle East, Africa, Canada and Latin America. I told CAMERA that. You have seen my letter. In lavishly repeating their charges, did you even mention this reply? You did not.

Fiction 5: that we slant our language. Tirelessly, you and your US friends allege that we do not call Palestinian terrorism by its name. Fact: our words, from our report of last August's Jerusalem bus-bombing: "Islamic terrorism"; "terrorist attacks." The Tel Aviv one in July: "Pure terrorism, with no shred of claim to be aimed at anything but civilians."

What we don't do, as CAMERA demands, is spray these words around like birdshot. We applied them twice to the IRA in a full-page-plus editorial after its end-of-ceasefire bomb in our own city; so much for your charge of double standards. Nor do we use "terrorism" as an all-purpose tar-brush. We think it is "a very definite thing - attacking civilians to spread terror, to achieve political means." My definition? No. David Bar-Ilan's, as quoted, on this very issue, in a new book about Conrad Black.

Oh, and allegedly we use "Palestine" to kid our readers into thinking there is such a state. What fools we'd have to be, and think them. In fact, last year 24 articles, even used the word - most often, spelling out "P.L.O." Four instances - one disputable - might seem to support your case.

To sum up, you have stood reality on its head. You and CAMERA are committed partisans, pro-Israeli hawks. That's your right - but it's hardly a qualification to preach or judge impartially: of the brickbats you hurl at the media - not just us - how many allege pro-Israeli bias? We, a London weekly, have no axe to grind. You and your friends have. You sneer at my argument that bias is likelier from you than us. So next time the Pope is criticized, you will go for an impartial view to the College of Cardinals?

AND NOW a far nastier matter. You reprint CAMERA's insinuation of anti-Semitism here. Hugh-Jones, you say, is much "irritated" by it. You print my reply. And then you with the Bar-Ilan tar-brush. "The gentleman," you write "doth protest too much." In the plain English that you dare not use, you imply my protests are false and the accusation is true.

If this weren't so foul, it might almost be funny. Antisemitism at a paper whose

chairman for many recent years was a Rothschild? At whose table I've lunched with Britain's late chief rabbi and, soon after his appointment, the new one? Where many of my colleagues - at least one in ten, I'd guess, but we don't spend our time on ethnic headcounts - are Jewish?

But it's not funny. Antisemitism is a filthy disease - and a filthy charge when the charge is false.

As for myself, tarred in person, am I irritated by the charge? No, I'm deeply angered, and happy to admit it: because I'm far more deeply angered by the disease.

I feel no duty to submit my credentials as a paid-up member of humanity just because David Bar-Ilan chooses to doubt them. But I'll do it. In 1980, after the bombing of a Paris synagogue, I spent half a page - of a stock-market paper! - calling for total solidarity of non-Jews with Jews against such evils. That's no special merit: any gentle aware of Europe's history should feel the same. Still, I felt it then, I feel it now. Are these the words of an anti-Semite?

I called your smear "tar." No, it's slime from the gutter. I suggest you withdraw it publicly, unreservedly and at once.

Next week: *Eye on the Media* responds.

The truth behind the Likud's election slogan

THE Likud's election slogan, "Peace with Jerusalem" implies that the Labor Party is conspiring to make peace without Jerusalem. This is an attempt to suggest that, because of certain changes of policy in the past, most notably over the Golan Heights, Labor can't be trusted.

According to the Likud, Labor has been secretly negotiating the division of Jerusalem for some time. This is a cynical suggestion that can be very harmful to the country.

If people are saying that the government is prepared to compromise on Jerusalem, the Palestinians will feel doubly encouraged to make that demand.

The Likud conveniently disregards the fact that it was a Labor-led government that uni-

ed Jerusalem. It was the Likud that gave up every inch of Sinai and uprooted all settlements there. Besides, the government's stands on the Golan and on Jerusalem have no bearing on one another.

The Golan, like Sinai, has never been part of Israel and has no particular emotional or religious value.

When a political party, be it the Likud or Labor, is in power and wants to achieve meaningful results, especially a dramatic result such as peace, it will make compromises.

But I have no doubt that no significant political figure, certainly not within the two major parties, has ever contemplated giving up eastern Jerusalem.

So the Likud slogan is empty, even if it is quite effective. But it is the Likud itself that is

putting into doubt our future hold on Jerusalem. The question is not one of bold declarations but of content.

WE WILL be able to keep Jerusalem only if we give equal conditions to all sectors of its population including the Palestinians.

The Likud's dramatic statements about Jerusalem weaken our hand. They agitate rather than soothe and call attention to problems for the sole purpose of electoral gain.

We should be quietly working to solve those problems, and to demonstrate to the world that Israel can govern effectively and peacefully.

In the long run, the decisive factor will not be patriotic slogans but the quiet and patient implementation and cultivation

CAPITAL TALK
TEDDY KOLLEK
with **AMOS KOLLEK**

of coexistence in Jerusalem between Arabs and Jews, (and between the Orthodox and secular). This will take a lot of time.

Clearly Yasser Arafat cannot declare that he is giving up his demand for Jerusalem, not today nor even in 10 years' time. It would be unrealistic to expect this of him. Arafat's reality dictates that he has to speak about Jerusalem, but that does not mean that he will not honor the peace, to which he is committed, if only out of self-interest. So let him talk.

Arab acceptance of the status quo can only be gradual and will take several decades, maybe

more. It will come when people get used to the fact that life in Jerusalem is tranquil and good.

Last week 270,000 Moslems came to the Temple Mount for the final Friday of Ramadan and there were no incidents, no violence. This is an example of Israel's tremendous achievement in ruling Jerusalem.

By contrast, tough-sounding slogans reveal a lack of real strength, foresight, wisdom, statesmanship and responsibility.

In 1980, Geula Cohen submitted a bill declaring Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel. This law was not only senseless - no other country makes such statements about its capital - but moreover it enabled our adversaries to demand in the UN that all embassies leave Jerusalem.

The result was that 15 embassies moved and only those of Panama and San Salvador remained. Nothing whatsoever was gained.

We all want peace with Jerusalem. But we have to work for it, not advertise.

I have no doubt that Labor and its partners can unite the city, and the Likud bloc cannot. Those who want the Likud election slogan to be a reality should therefore vote for the other side.

The Likud does not promise all Jerusalem citizens equal rights. It builds on division. Menachem Begin, for example, gained his first election success by exploiting Sephardi resentment of the Ashkenazim, particularly the kibbutzim, on absolutely unjustified grounds.

The Likud's present slogan

suggests that Labor will give up Jerusalem. The Likud basically goes to the voter with one statement: "When we trust the other side. Don't say peace with Jerusalem we mean it, whereas they will betray us. We should not fall for this. We should realize that we have never had it so good."

Nowadays, as I walk in the streets of Jerusalem, people come up to me, in surprising numbers, to say how much they regret that they didn't vote for me to continue as mayor. I can only advise them not to repeat the mistake they made in the Jerusalem election in '93.

We have a good government that is leading us toward peace and economic growth and certainly is strengthening a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. Let's keep it.

Jerusalem's history has indeed been 'forged'

IT is pointless to continue to argue that there is no "Palestinian (Arab) people," Avraham Greenbaum of Jerusalem recently wrote me.

He was commenting on my column of November 3, in which I pointed out that contrary to "post-Zionist" historical-revisionists, prime minister Golda Meir was not the first to assert that there was no such people. I cited Arab scholars and "Palestinian (Arab)" politicians and propagandists who, from the beginning of the British occupation in 1917 till as recently as 1977, rejected the "Palestine" label, insisting that this country was the "Province of Southern Syria."

One of them, Aumi Bey Abdul Hadi, even told the Peel Commission in 1937 that "Palestine is alien to us" and "is a term the Zionists invented!"

Greenbaum is right in that, regardless of the facts of those earlier decades, the "Palestinian (Arab)" baby has since been brought into the world, with the help of a team of Israeli and other Jewish midwives, and is today a full-blown, frisky entity, such as it is, asserting itself.

My purpose in writing that column was not, and in dwelling on the theme again today is not, to pretend that that entity does not now exist. What I seek, rather, is to remind you of some pertinent, but generally ignored facts in that entity's history and pre-history. These are facts that today's "Palestinian" spokesmen and their mouthpieces everywhere would rather forget.

Now even Jesus, David and Abraham have been "Palestinized." We may expect to hear that Adam, Eve and the serpent were "Palestinians," and that God Himself is one.

All this is part of the "Palestinians'" innovative claim that this "land" has been "from time immemorial," as Joan Peters titled her 1984 book brilliantly refuting that claim.

The facts notwithstanding, "Palestinian" propagandists, encouraged by Jews who are ridden with guilt over our having again and again thwarted Arab attempts to destroy us, continue to broadcast their rape of language and historical facts.

A current example is the February 3 Issue No. 33 of *Palestine Weekly Review*. This is the organ of the Directorate of

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

External Relations and Media of the "Palestinian Ministry of Information" - i.e. "President" Yasser Arafat's official propaganda bureau. It is in English, so apologists cannot explain away its lies and distortions as being for "internal (Arab) consumption," as they "justify" so many official Arab lies and bellicose statements.

Writing on "Jerusalem, a De Facto Divided City," PWR says: "In the pre-1948 period, Jerusalem was a Palestinian city and capital of Palestine; it had a Palestinian mayor..."

In the immediate pre-1948 period Jerusalem was, indeed, a "Palestinian city and capital of Palestine," being the British Mandatory authority's administrative center in the League of Nations' "Palestine Mandate."

It was also "Palestinian" in that its denizens bore official "Palestine" birth certificates, passports, etc. issued by the Mandatory authorities. My parents and elder sister arrived in the US from Jerusalem in 1922 as "Palestinians."

PWR is lying, however, in implying that pre-1948 Jerusalem was Arab Palestinian. The city's population in 1948 was 165,000, of whom 100,000 were Jews, 40,000 Moslems and 25,000 Christians.

And Jerusalem had "Palestinian" mayors after 1948 too - I mean the Israeli capital, not only the eastern section that Jordan occupied between 1948 and 1967. From the capital's first mayor after the 1948 war, Daniel Auster, through the incumbent, Ehad Olmert, all of Jerusalem's mayors have been "Palestinians" by birth or naturalization.

THE LIES OF PWR continue.

According to our PLO "peace partner," the Arabs' 1948 attempt to strangle Israel at birth was a war of self-defense.

In 1948 Britain withdrew, and Israel was established. What happened then, according to PWR, was not an invasion of Israel by neighboring Arab armies and continued murderous attacks by local Arabs. No. "The well-trained and well-organized Jewish army, supported by a strong Jewish infrastructure, waged a war against Palestinian cities, towns and vil-

lages."

Only then, "Arab armies from Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq entered the war to stop the advances of the Jewish army..."

As for 1967 - according to PWR, out of the blue "Israel occupied East Jerusalem and the remaining Palestinian land in the West Bank." No blockade of the Straits of Tiran by Egypt. No other threatening acts and bellicose rhetoric - often in a classic antisemitic vein - by Egypt, Syria and Jordan. No shelling of Jerusalem by Jordan and invasion by Jordanian troops after we sent messages to King Hussein urging him to stay out of the conflict.

Finally PWR states one or two accurate and truthful facts.

It notes that before the Six Day War the number of Jews "in Arab East Jerusalem was zero." That, of course, was due to Jordan's anti-semitic *judeen* policy; in those years, Jews were not only banned from living in Jordan, they could not even visit unless they showed a false baptismal certificate. This was true till the 1980s, when Hussein and Western Jewish liberals started courting each other openly.

Since last year's peace treaty, of course, Jewish tourists from everywhere, Israel included, are welcome in Jordan.

Another truthful PWR statement is that "The history of Jerusalem has been forged, its character defaced."

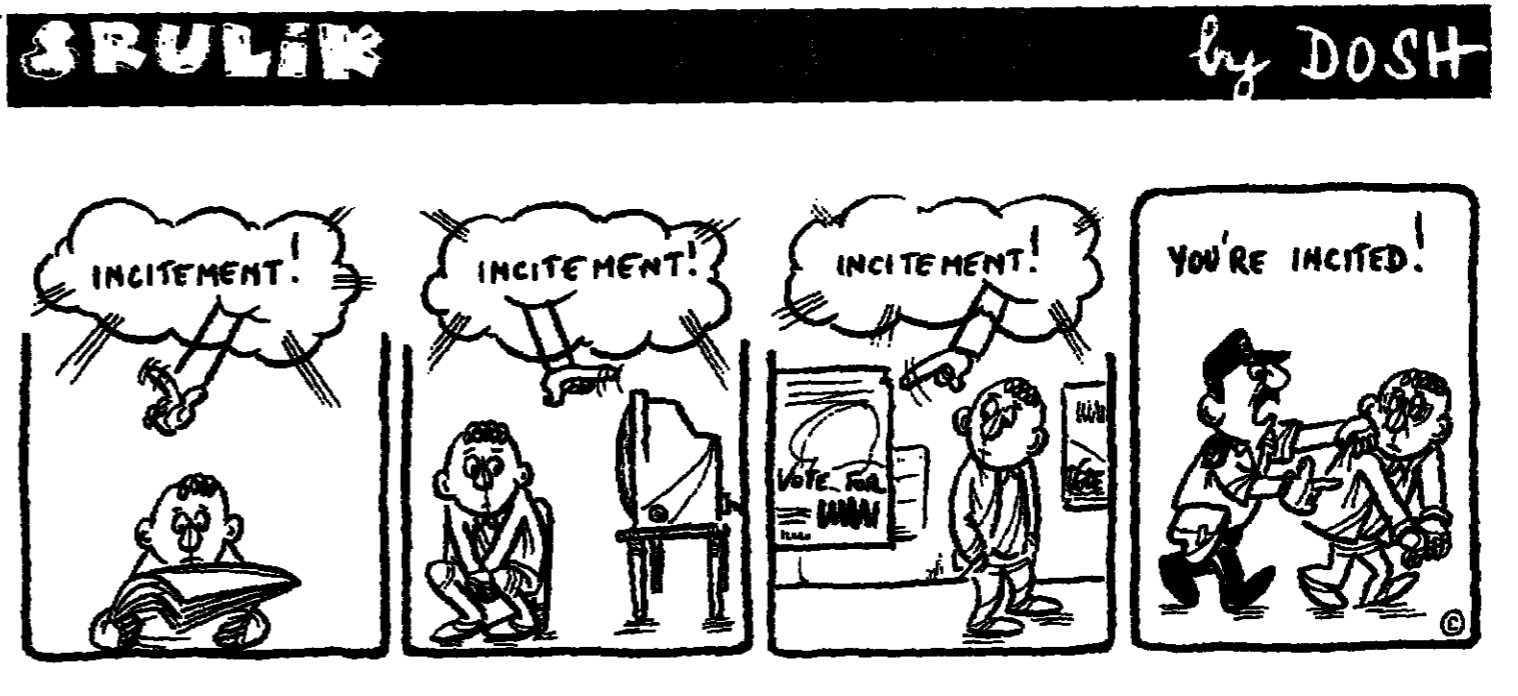
But this has been done not by Israel and the Jews, but by the Arafatians and their lackeys. Not only did our reunification of the city in 1967 not cause "its legitimate owners [to be] made destitute," but it improved their material lot in many areas.

Read some descriptions of proletarian life in eastern Jerusalem, especially within the walls of the Old City, between 1948 and 1967.

Ask people who saw the sewage running through the streets and alleys and the flies sitting and feeding on the eyes and sores of ragamuffins and bedraggled elderly persons.

So much for all the unmitigated evil perpetrated by "the Jewish occupier of the Palestinian city."

(With thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner of Jerusalem, codirector of *IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis*, and *Eliyahu Tal's* *Whose Jerusalem?*)



Being and building

"And let them make Me a sanctuary [mishkan] that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8)

ONE of the strongest anthropomorphisms in the Torah appears in this week's portion of *Truma*.

What does it mean for God to "dwell" among the people? Does this imply that without a sanctuary, God does not dwell among us? If anything, the verse should read: "that the people dwell near God." Or, if we insist on the need for the anthropomorphism, then it would be more accurate if the verse had simply said: "...make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell in it."

According to the Midrash, the Sabbath's prohibitions are linked to the construction of the sanctuary. Several chapters ahead, in *Ki Tisa*, as God is speaking to Moses about Bezalel, the architect of the Sanctuary, the Torah suddenly moves from the sanctuary to the Sabbath. "But verily you shall keep My Sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you..." (Exodus 31: 13-14)

Aside from the general declaration forbidding *melacha*, creative activity, the written Torah is virtually silent on specifically what is included under the rubric. And so, by virtue of the fact that an additional Sabbath injunction appears precisely where it does, our Sages of the Midrash derived the definition of "work" from the different categories of labor

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

involved in the construction of the Sanctuary: whatever was involved in the construction is forbidden on the Sabbath.

What is therefore striking is the list of forbidden creative activities as listed in the Mishna (*Shabbat* 7, 2), beginning with plowing, planting and harvesting, and concluding with kindling or extinguishing a fire, and applying the final hammer blow. All in all, 39 major categories of forbidden activities are recorded.

On the surface, there seems to be little relationship between these activities and the building of the Sanctuary. Moreover, even if we were to suggest (as does Rashi) that the initial group is related to the planting of the herbs whose dyes were used for the Sanctuary curtains, the 11th listed category, baking, poses a significant problem. At the very least "cooking" should have been listed, since extracting the different ingredients needed to dye the linens required cooking or boiling the herbs but not baking.

Confronting this question, Rabbi Papa explains that baking replaced cooking because the author of the Mishna, Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi, wanted to list the process involved in the manufacture of bread. (B.T. *Shabbat* 74b)

This Talmudic response sheds light on all 39 activities. When studying the Mishna from this perspective, it becomes clear that the second grouping of prohibited activities centers around the man-

ufacture of clothing, the third grouping around the manufacture of leather, and the fourth around construction. Hence, the Mishna is teaching that the three primary physical requirements of humanity - food, clothing and shelter - are not to be pursued on the Sabbath day.

Now the true significance of the Sabbath begins to emerge. From a true Torah perspective, the pursuit of food, clothing and shelter - a living - is necessary and legitimate, but is hardly the purpose for which humanity was created.

Our goal is to imitate God, to express the compassion, tolerance and truth which are the hallmark of His essence. Hence, the Sabbath was given as a day in which we are freed from the need to make a living and can dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of a life in the fellowship of the God whose essence is the very purpose of our lives.

The sanctuary, like every synagogue, is a physical structure whose function is to inspire people to meet with God. In this sense, it is a means to a most exalted end: "And let them make me a Sanctuary that I may dwell among them."

The Sabbath is a day dedicated to communion with the Divine through prayer, Torah study and intense familial and communal relationships - the God in human fellowship. In this sense, Sabbath is the end product toward which the Sanctuary points.

Perhaps this is what the Midrash

means when it states that whatever is involved in the building of the Sanctuary is not to be done on the Sabbath: the end must always supersede the means.

And perhaps this is what Abraham Joshua Heschel means when he says that while the Temple is a Sanctuary in space, the Sabbath is a Sanctuary in time. The former is a physical structure and can be destroyed; the latter is a spiritual structure and can never be destroyed.

Permit me to offer an alternative translation to the opening verse of our Torah reading. When Moses and Israel sang their great song of thanksgiving at the splitting of the Red Sea, they declared: "This is my God, and I shall build a House (Sanctuary) for Him." (Exodus 15:2) According to the Targum, the Hebrew *naveh* is taken to mean "house."

Samson Raphael Hirsch expands this interpretation to read: "This is my God, and I shall be a house for Him." That is, I shall make myself - my thoughts and actions - a vehicle for the expression of His essence and will.

Perhaps this is really what our verse is teaching. The Sanctuary must be the vehicle which inspires individual Israelites to become God-like, living expressions of the true and compassionate God.

The Sanctuary is the means, being with God is the end; building a house for God is the means, being a House for God is the end.

Shabbat Shalom

In defense of human dignity

In her challenge to seize the woman's world championship title, currently being contested in Spain, Zsuzsa Polgar, the eldest of the famous trio of sisters, leads Xie Jun of China 3.5 - 2.5. With 10 games left to be played Polgar is widely tipped to bring the crown back to Europe.

But this long-awaited match was totally overshadowed by world champion Garry Kasparov's six-game duel with IBM's mighty chess computer Deep Blue.

Game one saw history being made, as it was the first time a computer defeated a reigning world champion under classic tournament time controls. Kasparov, 32, must have felt that his \$400,000 win bonus was sliding away as he bowed in to Deep Blue's relentless attack.

Kasparov had vowed to defend human dignity against a machine which can calculate between 80 million and 120 million positions per second, has become a 32-node RS/6000 SP high-performance computer. It includes two linked modules each standing over two meters tall and it works on parallel processing in which many microprocessors work together.

Yet Kasparov managed to outsmart the computer in game two. One of Deep Blue's programmers explained that the computer "got into an opening it had never

played before. We don't know why." Game three and four both ended in draws.

Kasparov surprised experts in game five, responding to Deep Blue's opening, 1. e4, with 1... e5. Deep Blue played the "Scotch game" opening, declined Kasparov's offer of a draw on move 23, and entered a questionable sequence of moves which gave his human opponent the upper hand. Kasparov went on to win on move 47.

Needing only a draw in game six to win the match, the world champion went on to win the game in emphatic style. Reducing Deep Blue's pieces to virtual immobility on the queen's side, Kasparov launched a devastating assault on Deep Blue's defenseless king, forcing it to resign, again on move 47.

Some 200 paying spectators converged onto the Philadelphia Convention Center, and IBM reported that millions of people around the world followed the games on the Internet.

Incidentally, in last year's world chess computer championships in Hong Kong, the Israel representative, Junior, took third place, edging the favorite, Deep Blue into an embarrassing fourth.

CHESS

NICK KOPALOFF

Deep Blue - Kasparov, Garry
Game 1
Philadelphia, February 1996
Sicilian Defence - 2.c3 (Alapin) variation

1.e4 c5 2.c3. Although deeply rooted in chess theory, this move was seldom seen in top tournaments a decade ago. In recent times, however, it has gained immense popularity, as it limits Black's flexibility and avoids Black's sharpest attacking options.

2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.h3 Bb5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Be3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bb4 11.a3 Ba5 12.Nc3 Qd6 13.Nb5.

At this early stage of the game Kasparov is reported to have been grimacing at Deep Blue's impudent knight move which hits his queen. The world champion thought for 30 minutes before making his reply.

13...Qe7 14.Ne5 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 0-0 16.Rac1 Rac8 17.Bg5 Bb6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Nc4 Rfd8 20.Nxb6 axb6 21.Rfd1 f5 22.Qe3 Qf6 23.d5. Deep Blue now inflicts on the world champion an ugly twin set of isolated doubled pawns. This is almost, but not quite, compensated by Black's passed d pawn, which threatens to make a dash for promotion.

23...Rxd5 24.Rxd5 exd5 25.h3 Kh3 26.Qxb6 Rg8 27.Qc5 d4 28.Nd6 R4 29.Nxb7 Ne5 30.Qd5 f3 31.g3 Nd3 32.Re7

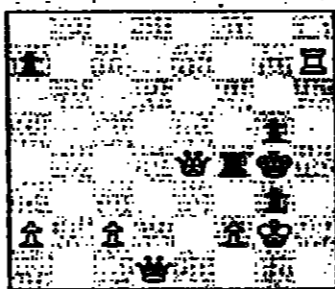


DIAGRAM 1
after Black's 32nd move
33.Nd6!! Deep Blue is untroubled by Kasparov's back rank threats. The computer prefers to regroup its forces for the final assault.
33...Re1+ 34.Kh3 Nxf2 35.Nxf7+ Kg7 36.Ng5+ Kh6 37.Nxf7+ 1-0
In his game against Grigoriev, (Soviet Union 1987), Ivanov conjured up a dream mate in the following position. Write to play and win.

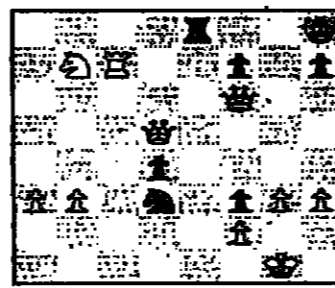


DIAGRAM 2
Solution: 1.Rh4+! Kxb4 2.gxh4 2.Qg6+ 2.Qh7+ Qb5 2...Kg4 3.Qh3+ 3.Kg3+ Kg4 4.Qd7+ Rf5 5.Qd1+- 1-0



Gu Ling (left), and Zhang Ya Lan logged a victory in Women's Pairs.

Chinese show winning colors at International Bridge Festival

South dealer
East-West vulnerable
North
♠ QJ86
♥ K3
♦ 54
♣ AJ1073
West
♠ 10752
♥ AKJ95
♦ AK63
♣ 4
East
♠ 93
♥ 642
♦ J1092
♣ Q862
South
♠ AK4
♥ Q1087
♦ Q87
♣ K95

South West North East
1C double redouble 1D
pass pass 1S pass
1NT pass 3NT (all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ A

As the Israeli International Bridge Festival in Tel Aviv winds down this week, thousands of satisfied bridge players will be discussing the deals they played and the foreign guests they met. Many famous players from around the globe, including Pietro Forquet of Italy, Karbie Wei-Sender and Martin Hoffman of the US, and Barin Shenkin of Scotland. Other countries represented were Austria, Bulgaria, China, England, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Morocco, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand and Turkey.

The Chinese, who come to the festival every year with the encouragement of their coach,

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

Mrs. Wei-Sender, started strongly with a victory in the Women's Pairs. They were Zhang Ya Lan and Gu Ling, of Guangxi Humin (formerly known as Caution). Wei-Sender, who was born in Beijing, has done a fantastic job promoting the game in China and hopes to stage an Israel-China match in the near future.

Several good points were made in the postmortem of this week's deal, which comes from the last round of the Mixed Teams. At most tables the final contract was three notrump by South, and most Wests led the ace or king of diamonds. At one table, South opened the bidding one club, playing a five-card major system. West doubled for takeout and North redoubled. East bid one diamond to keep his partner from bidding a major and now North-South took over and landed in the notrump game. West led the ace of diamonds, which in the expert's opinion was the king. (The king of diamonds would deny the ace and show the queen.) East played the deuce at trick one, discouraging a continuation, because he was hoping to gain the lead with the queen of clubs and then lead the jack of diamonds through South's queen. But things did not go according to plan. West tried a heart shift, underleading the ace, and declarer won and continued hearts. West allowed the king to win in dummy and now declarer led the jack of clubs, finessing safely into the

West hand. If the jack of clubs had led to the queen, West would be on lead and South's diamond queen would be protected. When the jack of clubs held, however, declarer was able to finesse to his nine, cash the king and score 11 tricks for a great result.

At several tables, East signaled with the jack of diamonds at trick one under the ace. West continued diamonds with the king and another, clearing the suit. The defense now had four tricks, the ace of hearts and three diamonds, so declarer had to guess the location of the club queen for his contract.

There are two ways for declarer to finesse in clubs. He can cash the king and finesse through West. Or he can lead a club to the ace and finesse through East. Are there any substantial clues which way to go?

One player cashed the king of clubs and tried to finesse through West. When West showed out, declarer had no option but to concede down one. His excuse was that if the clubs were 4-1, the finesse must be taken toward the long holding, dummy's five-card suit, so that five club tricks could be scored.

This was sound reasoning, if you are desperate for five club tricks. But with only three club tricks necessary for the contract, a better approach is to guess which opponent, East or West, has the longer holding in clubs and then finesse through him. The way to explore is first to cash four rounds of spades. When East shows out on the third round, you know that he has the length in clubs and the finesse should be taken through him.

Israel serves as a winter home to birds

THERE is nothing quite so amazing as the number of birds that choose to spend the winter here. I am sure that this is also true of much of Jordan and parts of Syria, but unfortunately there is very little information about what is happening in those countries.

But here, as soon as the summer is over, they start to arrive and before long all of the 94 species that spend the winter in Israel can be seen. Some come in small flocks and others in vast numbers, even in hundreds of thousands. Most are birds that nest in Europe during the spring and summer but a few of the birds are from other parts of Asia.

Some of the winter visitors are truly "early birds" and arrive as early as August. These include the gray heron, which is a familiar sight around fishponds and in the Hula Nature Reserve, and the first of the herring gulls, which appear along the sea coast. In September the teal and pied wag-

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

tail and the little grebe show up. But October is the real arrival date for most of our winter visitors and during that month the black-headed gull, the robin, the great white egret and dozens of others all converge here while the massive flocks of starlings and cormorants usually come towards the end of October or the first part of November. Some rarer winter-dwellers may not arrive until December.

Not all of these winter visitors are received with open arms and the cormorants in particular are the bane of the fish-breeding ponds. The damage has been so severe in some areas of Galilee as to literally empty ponds of their young fish and reluctantly the Nature Reserves Authority gave the fish farmers permission to shoot cormorants. Since the cormorant is not in danger of extinction and since the

shooting involves a limited number of individual birds it is hoped that this will be enough to deter them.

The starlings are also not too happily received. They flock into poultry runs and livestock pens and consume amazingly large amounts of very expensive concentrated food. In some parts of the Golan Heights it has been necessary to feed lambs and cattle before dawn so that the cattle and not the starlings will get the food.

In addition to the winter guests there are another 121 species that pass through Israel on their annual journey to Africa. These birds arrive earlier than the winter visitors and many stop off here for rest and food.

Some prove useful to the local environment, such as white-storks that do so much to help control populations of field mice and

voles, while others like the pelican are most unwelcome because of their depredations in the fish-ponds.

When the climate remains mild, the pelicans, having found plenty of food, linger on causing them to become a real problem. Each pelican needs about one and a half kilograms of fish for its daily sustenance so it is easy to calculate that when there is a flock of a thousand pelicans, a not unusual number, the fish loss amounts to a ton and a half of fish per day.

But despite these woes this country goes to great lengths to protect our winter guests whether they are just passing through or staying for the season. There are few if any places in the world where so much time and attention is devoted to looking after the welfare of birds that don't live there.

But right now, in February, there is a plethora of migratory species to see and a world of avian magic all around us.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Neat electrical network keeps farm animals in a field (8,4)
 - 9 Home fixture for City (4)
 - 10 Hire candle out for light (10)
 - 11 It describes a foot in metres (6)
 - 12 Not birds, they chirp and fly (7)
 - 15 Income from flat in French street (7)
 - 16 A man many praise (5)
 - 17 See a key agent (4)
 - 18 Left harbour (4)
 - 19 A gift for dishonesty? (5)
 - 21 Those dashed stones? (7)
 - 22 Years possibly follow as a metal tester (7)
 - 24 He finishes off the game with the queen (6)
 - 27 He holds hands during the game (4,6)
 - 28 System for better transport (4)
 - 29 Metal shackles keep men in step (5,5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Yearn for each other (4)
 - 3 It's plain frozen (6)
 - 4 Upsets Alice, for example, when describing some poetry (7)
 - 5 Close in and attack (4)
 - 6 Hooted at performance after free admission (7)
 - 7 Duplicate of the same type (6,4)
 - 8 Smart girl in the city (10)
 - 12 Inexpensive fish will suit him (10)
 - 13 Brown's competence in the garden (10)
 - 14 But they're no disgrace to musicians (5)
 - 15 Dance and a drink to uplift a sailor (5)
 - 19 What this youngster's mother did (7)
 - 20 Sees through, grabs a hat, and gets out (7)
 - 23 A capital rank Arabs hold (6)
 - 25 Sailing vessel with a professional second mate (4)
 - 26 Above the neck—in a glass of beer? (4)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Fought, 4 Knocks, 7 Cinnamon, 9 Grid, 10 Tang, 11 Flew, 13 Fumble, 14 Dunes, 15 Awaiting, 17 Numb, 19 Green, 20 Gift, 22 Area, 23 Sherwood, 24 Annie, 25 Evict.
DOWN: 1 Flight, 2 Gold, 3 Temple, 4 Elected, 5 Omit, 6 Stamps, 7 Criminals, 8 Camembert, 11 Flag, 12 Turis, 15 Angles, 16 Green, 17 Needle, 18 Evident, 21 Trust, 22 Ast.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Puffed (4)
- 3 Storing (8)
- 9 In front (5)
- 10 Whip (7)
- 11 Recede (3)
- 13 Basic (9)
- 14 Option (5)
- 16 A non-metallic element (6)
- 18 Tired out (9)
- 20 Moose (3)
- 22 Rotating (7)
- 23 Foe (5)
- 25 Darts (8)
- 26 Deficiency (4)

DOWN

- 1 Censure (5)
- 2 Watch (3)
- 4 Pitched (6)
- 6 Acute disease (7)
- 6 Peevish (9)
- 7 Aerial imp (7)
- 8 Inactive (4)
- 12 Fraternal (9)
- 14 Originated (7)
- 15 Messenger (7)
- 17 Blamish (6)
- 19 Profound (4)
- 21 Eskimo boat (5)
- 24 Epoch (3)

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We cannot emphasize strongly enough that it doesn't make any difference when donations are sent, since we need funds all year round.

Please don't let the flow of contributions dry up. There are so many who need your assistance. Send your checks today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the US wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of the Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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NIS 30 Avraham Amrani, Ramat Issai.
\$36 In memory of parents Yeta and Sylvia Barish - Dr. and Mrs. Leon Levy, Mount Laurel, NJ. In memory of my late mother's birthday on February 22 - Werner Weichsel, Mexico.
\$25 Alvin and Elaine Finestone, Clifton Forge, VA.
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NIS 180 In memory of my parents - Mia Kroener, Tel Aviv. In memory of our mother Dina Hes - Her children and family.
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New Donations Progress Totals
NIS 250 NIS 2,967
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We haven't as yet reached our expectations (NIS 150,000) and have therefore decided to extend the Emergency Appeal to Independence Day. Please help us in this most worthwhile endeavor.

NIS 500 Rita Watson, J'im.
NIS 180 Avital Dafni, Tel Aviv.
NIS 150 Felix Landau, J'im.
NIS 100 Rosina Goveyeff, Aseret.
Rizza and Robert de Haas, Netanya.
Noami and Maurice May, Netanya.
Sharon Rosen, J'im. Larissa and Alexander Bau, Haifa.
NIS 50 Anon., Ramat Gan, Shani Dafni (age 8), Tel Aviv. Carmel Dafni (age 8), Tel Aviv. Anna Czerny, Herzliya. Kathleen Parker, Kfar Hess.
NIS 20 Longdon Karmel, Karmiel.
NIS 18 Anon., Tel Aviv.
C\$50 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
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The wonders of Swiss rail

THE Swiss city of Basel (population: 300,000 — about the size of Haifa), has almost no traffic problems, largely due to one factor: its magnificent tramway system.

It recently celebrated its centenary, and at a time when other cities are facing horrendous traffic problems, it is Basel that is now having the last laugh.

When other cities scrapped their trams in what ought to be called the "Great Destruction" of the 1950s, Basel, partly because of its slow-moving direct democracy, was left behind in the rush to dismantle what was at the time considered an outmoded form of transport.

It is only now, in the enlightened 1990s, that many have come to realize that light rail is one of the solutions to the traffic problems that plague many modern cities.

In Basel, private cars are not allowed to drive through the city center (with the exception of vehicles making deliveries during morning hours). A complicated

The excellent Swiss transport system is now the envy of the world

Sybil Ehrlich reports from Basel

one-way system forces drivers to return the way they came, or else to drive around the outskirts.

I visited Basel and the surrounding area with a group of journalists by courtesy of Swissair to study the local transport system.

Of course there is much more to see in Basel than trains. The city center is well preserved, with its beautifully restored medieval buildings, including the early 16th-century town hall. The shops offer the well-heeled such delights as jewel-studded watches, which can cost at least 4,000 Swiss francs (NIS 11,000). For those whose budget doesn't stretch that far, delicious selections of chocolates are available at rather more affordable prices.

In addition, there are more than 30 museums in and around the

city to cater to every imaginable interest, from the history of pharmacy to sport to cartoons.

BASEL IS an excellent base for touring the surrounding area. About an hour away by train is Lucerne. The famous medieval wooden bridge was destroyed by fire two years ago, but has been rebuilt in the original style.

The Lake of Lucerne Navigation Company operates boats on Lake Lucerne, providing ferry services to local towns, connecting with cog railways and cable cars to take you into the heart of the mountains. The company also runs mini-cruises including lunch or dinner, and night trips with music and dancing.

Lucerne is also home to one of the world's leading transport museums, with exhibits on "everything that moves us," as its publicity material says, as well as a telecommunications center and a planetarium. One section of the transport museum is devoted to items especially relating to Switzerland: cable cars, ski lifts and a train from the world's steepest cog railway, built in 1889 and in regular service till 1937.

Across the border in France, the city of Mulhouse (about 50 minutes by road) boasts the French Railway Museum, the largest in France, and possibly one of the best museums of its kind.

A huge shed displays historic locomotives and railway carriages including century-old double-deckers, and a fourth-class coach for peasants taking their animals to market. This is in stark contrast to Emperor Napoleon III's luxurious private railway carriage and the famous Orient Express, which are also on display. The indoor exhibits, as well as a reconstructed station in the museum yard, would have kept this railway enthusiast interested for hours, if our program had permitted it.

North of Mulhouse is Colmar, with half-timbered 17th-century houses restored by the local council. Colmar is the capital of the wine-growing region of Alsace. The local tourist office is happy to supply leaflets on the wine trail through picturesque medieval villages nesting in valleys amid vast expanses of vines.

Modern health in an old-style hotel

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Mitzpe Hayamin Hotel doesn't advertise itself as a place to revive romance. But I saw more middle-aged couples hugging, kissing and holding hands there than I have seen in a long time.

Perhaps this is the result of the country air at the resort on Mt. Canaan between Rosh Pina and Safed in Upper Galilee. Or perhaps it is the atmosphere in the 70-room hotel and health resort, where guests seem to shed their clothes and don the hotel-supplied bathrobes almost as soon as they arrive.

Perhaps it is the food — many of the ingredients are home-grown organic fruits and vegetables. Or perhaps it is the massage treatments, pool and saunas.

Whatever it is, Mitzpe Hayamin exudes an atmosphere that is altogether different from most other local hotels. The lobby, decorated in wood, stained glass and rough stone, is filled with comfortable, overstuffed couches and armchairs. There are two streams — filled with trees, plants, vines, waterfalls and fish ponds — located inconspicuously on the way to the rooms.

The art gallery comes complete with resident potter, sculptor, painter and jewelry maker, and only now is the first elevator being installed in the three-floor establishment.

The hotel was built by Dr. Elich Jaroslavsky in 1969, when it functioned as a strictly-run health resort. Back then, there was only one TV set, which was turned off at 10 p.m., even if mid-program. The food was a basic diet, with lots of steamed grains. Following Jaroslavsky's death, the hotel closed in 1991. It reopened the following year, completely renovated.

These days there are TV sets in every room, but a large number of guests prefer to sit in the lobby, where a fireplace is lit in cold weather. And there are still rules. No smoking is permitted anywhere in the hotel and guests are asked not to bring cellular phones into the dining room.

But the food is far from spartan.



Mitzpe Hayamin exudes an atmosphere that is different from other hotels in the Upper Galilee.

A lavish Israeli breakfast includes pancakes and sweet rolls. The fresh white cheese is made on the premises with milk from the hotel's cows, sheep and goats.

All meals are buffet, and there are always lots of fresh salads, as well as fish and, for dessert, rich cakes made with cream from the farm. The hotel does not have a kosher certificate (even though no meat is served). To supplement the dining room, there is a tea corner — where coffee, tea, and primarily herbal teas are available 24 hours a day, with cake in the afternoon.

The cake is not available to participants in the Health Week program, who follow a set diet — and a round of activities and treatments — and who sit at a reserved table in the dining room.

THE treatments are set for the Health Week guests, but others may take them as well. The choice is bewildering: Shiatsu and Swedish massage compete

with aromatherapy and Indian massage.

My companion tried reflexology, in which the operator massages the client's feet to impart strength and relieve tension. She wasn't sure if the treatment actually reduced tension, but it did make her feet feel wonderful.

I opted for underwater massage with Ludmilla who, like many of the therapists, is an immigrant from the former Soviet Union. Clad in a bathing suit, I sat in a bath of warm water while she went over my limbs with a needle shower, "cleaning out the pores and getting rid of the dead cells." Then she turned on the bath's jet mechanism and poured in a herbal preparation based on pine oil. This is primarily one of the steps in a weight-loss program.

I stayed in the bath until the solution began to burn my skin, at which point Ludmilla let me get out. After half an hour wrapped like a cocoon in a blanket, I

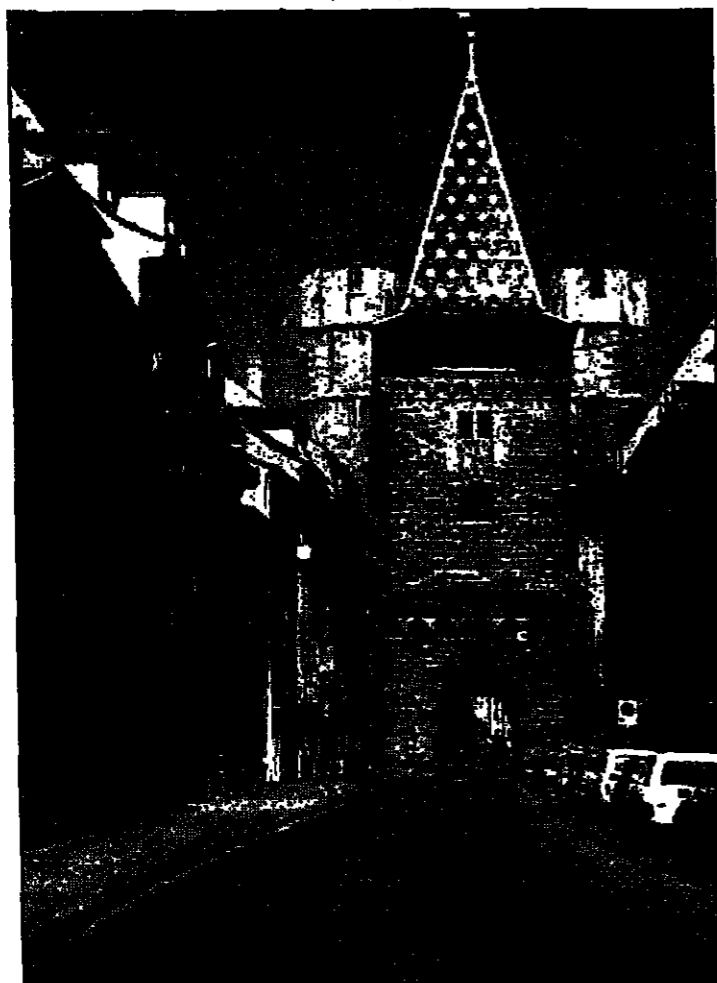
emerged rested and fresh.

The next day we tried another of the hotel's activities, a tour of Gai Oni, the historic section of Rosh Pina, with Arlik Lubovsky, who regularly conducts tours and gives lectures about the area.

A tour with Lubovsky is like a talk with a gossip columnist of a century or so ago, providing an intimate view of times gone by.

Other fascinating hotel employees include Shmuel Zeid, scion of one of the old Galilee families. Zeid prepares the fruit preserves, and he has a wealth of family tales.

Prices are not cheap. The current rates with half board are NIS 810 for a couple per night on a weekend, although those staying two nights get either a treatment or another night's stay thrown in. On weekdays, the rate for a couple is NIS 605 per night. Rates are due to go up on March 1. The health week, which lasts from Sunday through Friday, costs from NIS 2,650, including treatments.



The Spalentor, one of Basel's medieval city gates, has a replica of a list of tolls payable by different categories of goods and persons, including Jews.

Basel's Jewish ties

BASEL HAS plenty of sites of Jewish interest. The city was founded in 1897, and you can see Herzl's balcony overlooking the Rhine. Basel also has the only Jewish museum in Switzerland, a comprehensive and religious life.

The earliest record of a Jewish community in the city dates from the year 1041. Hebrew inscriptions, from this period were later used as building material for the Jewish Museum.

In 1349 Basel's Jews, like their coreligionists throughout Europe, were gathered on an island in the Rhine and burned. From then until 1499, Jews were allowed to reside in the city.

In the 16th century, Basel was a center of Hebrew printing for universities. It was owned by Christians, but employed Jewish proofreaders who had considerable knowledge of the Hebrew language.

Jews from Alsace were permitted to trade in Basel in the 17th century, but had to leave by the city gates had a list of tolls payable for each kind of merchandise or category of person.

One of the gates, the Spalentor, bears a replica of the 1775 notice. The fee for transportation of 8 pfennigs, for a horse or cow 2 pfennigs, and a Jew with authorization from the local board had to one schilling, less than a wagonload of fish.

The decree forbidding non-Protestants to live in Basel was abolished in 1866, and the city's present-day Jewish community was founded in that year.

Purim in London comes cheap

PURIM in London may not be traditional, but it's cheap — with a flight and a week-long stay in a hotel with breakfast selling for \$515. The offer comes from Aviation Links.

For Pessah, the Paradise chain — with hotels in Eilat, Tiberias and Jerusalem — is offering special nightly rates with breakfast for two, ranging from NIS 378 at their Kinneret vacation village to NIS 622 in Eilat. The price of the seder meal for guests is NIS 74 at the Kinneret, NIS 140 at the other hotels.

FOR THOSE who want to spend Pessah in London, or other European destinations, the Hilton chain is offering discounts to Visa Gold card holders of up to 50 percent and more during the holiday period. Those staying at London's Langham Hilton, for a nightly rate of £115 per couple (without meals), also have the option of a kosher seder for £80 per person.

Another offer to Visa Gold card holders is a limousine service to and from airports in London and New York. The price from Heathrow to any address in London is £27, and from Kennedy to a New York address is \$45.

ARKIA HAS a series of Pessah and spring vacation packages to New York and Florida ranging from a flight and six nights in a Manhattan hotel from \$730, to a Florida vacation with four nights in Orlando, two in Miami Beach,

TRAVEL TIPS HAIM SHAPIRO

and three aboard a cruise ship to the Bahamas, from \$1,230.

KESHET ROUTES offers a six-night Pessah excursion to Santorini, with a stay in one of a series of a small, family-run hotels, from \$519, or a six-night vacation in Rhodes from \$499.

A Pessah package to Corfu is being offered by Century 2000. The price for a week, including a direct charter flight and hotel with breakfast, starts at \$799.

ANOTHER PESSAH option is a six-night package to Sicily organized by Ophir Tours, including a

rental car and rooms with breakfast at a variety of hotels around the island, starting at \$629.

FOR NIS 462, the price of the round-trip airfare, Arkia is offering those under 30 a four-night midweek stay in an apartment for four in Eilat's Tamar Residence apartment hotel.

TANZANIA is the latest destination for safaris, as a result of flights to nearby Mombasa. Aviation Links has a week-long tour from \$1,699, including airfare.

Also using the Mombasa option, Bah Tours is offering four nights in Mombasa and three nights in Zanzibar from \$939, including flights and hotel with half board.

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For further information contact: Eddie Freudmann: 09-339171/829805. Fax: 09-829802 or David Miller: 09-332607

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NIS 175 (including lunch).
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| Thursday
March 28 | REDISCOVERING CAESAREA
You may have been before but using new archeological methods, Herod's town has been rediscovered. He'd be happy to see it today. The beautiful bathing house, the hippodrome, the baths, the imperial storage rooms Herod's temple, and more.
NIS 155 (including lunch).
Tour guide: Archeologist AVNER GOREN |
| Saturday
April 13 | THE CAPITAL'S WOMEN
This Saturday morning walking tour features the women in our life. They've left their mark on the streets, the buildings and our history. From Heleni Hamalka, to Elizabeth Alexandrovitch, to Lea Abushdid to Anna Ticho. You'll meet them and more on an easy three hour walk. We meet in Jerusalem NIS 55
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The tour price for March 18 and 28 tours, includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Pickup and return, drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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Politics with mother's milk

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

IT'S NEVER too early to start learning about politics, but that's not the reason why Jerusalem city councillor Asst Hoffman wants to take her month-old son Yoel to council meetings. Yoel is not yet a bottle baby and his mother wants to be sure that whenever feeding time comes around, she can hold the infant to her breast.

The religious members of the council are less than happy at Hoffman's decision, and have even suggested that she may be in post-partum crisis. But Hoffman, who has promised to be very discreet in performing her maternal duty, is not in any crisis whatsoever. A veteran councillor and a member of the Meretz opposition faction, she knows that one vote can often make a crucial difference.

Motherhood, as far as she is concerned, is not a reason for abandoning her voting rights.

HUNDREDS OF alumni of central Brooklyn's Yeshiva University High School for Girls live in Israel, says the school's former academic secretary Jeannette Halpern, adding that graduates from the class of '51 right through to the class of '95 can be found all the way from the Golan Heights to Beerseba.

Halpern, who has organized a reunion at Jerusalem's Yeshurun Synagogue for this coming Sunday, expects a large turnout. Among those attending will be Esther Wachsmann (class of '65), the unofficial spokesperson for national unity, and *The Jerusalem Post's* own Judy Siegel (class of '67).

FORMER TEL Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat has been given the Reuth Honor Award in recognition of his efforts to ensure that Reuth's protected housing project for the aged will continue to function in central Tel Aviv. In presenting the award, Reuth managing director Eliezer Jeshelsohn lauded Lahat for his consistent cooperation with the organization throughout his years in office.

The presentation was made at Reuth's Beit Shalom (also known as Batei Barth), in the gardens of which Leah and Yitzhak Rabin were married close to half a century ago. The new structure was completed last year at Lahat's instigation, when the previous complex was deemed unfit for habitation.

APPEARING AT the first Women



Former NBA superstar Dominique Wilkins gives a taste of the good life to the Tel Aviv Hilton's Hagit Konstantini.

for Women fundraiser, which aims to get more women into the Knesset, Meretz MK Naomi Chazan provided a reason beyond the logic of proportional representation for voting more women into office. Israel is number one in the world in the ratio of educated females, she said, noting that "57 percent of university graduates are women. No country can afford to waste such qualified personnel. We are not utilizing the best resources we have."

Some 30 Anglos who contributed in excess of NIS 10,000 to Knesset candidates of their choice, were astounded when Chazan, instead of campaigning for herself, put in a pitch for Hadash candidate Tamar Gozansky, whom she described as "one of the most outstanding parliamentarians ever in Israel." Chazan should know. Before going into politics herself, she used to teach political science at the Hebrew University.

MANY OF us would like to know how the other half lives. Slona Dror has not only discovered other people's lifestyles, she has also photographed them. During her 15 years as a writer on interiors for *Arad Ma'ariv* Dror visited the homes of the rich and the famous, as well as the not-so-rich and famous. After quitting journalism two years ago, she devoted herself to producing a book, *Fine Houses in Israel*, which has been published by Modan. The book provides many striking and unusual ideas for people interested in redesigning their own homes, but does not include any photographs of Dror's own place of domicile, which is a pity, because she's managed to get attractive space saving and the talent for making something out of

nothing down to a fine art.

INTERNAL SECURITY Minister Moshe Shabhal arrived late and left early to fit in a television interview, but his hostess Esther Bitan, who had been waiting for 18 years to welcome him in her home, forgave him. Bitan, whose walls are lined with photographs of herself with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who is always a guest at her Mimouna celebrations, is running on the Jerusalem ticket in the Labor primaries. Asked whether Peres would grace her home at this year's Mimouna, Bitan replied: "It's a problem. I don't know if his security guards will allow it."

FORMER NBA superstar Dominique Wilkins, currently playing for the champion Greek team Panathinaikos, was greeted on arrival at the Tel Aviv Hilton by Hagit Konstantini the hotel's restaurants coordinator. Konstantini, who is of Greek Jewish stock, offered Wilkins a gigantic bowl of traditional Greek salad, which he decided was definitely large enough to share, and promptly spoon-fed her.

SOME OF the guests attending a farewell function at the Tel Aviv Museum in honor of Karmi Gillon, outgoing General Security Service chief, have not been able to adjust to the new reality of a less-than-secret service, and did everything possible to obstruct the work of media personnel who came to cover the event.

NAMED AS Volunteer of the Year by the Jerusalem Region's Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, Bernard Barnett, who has served as treasurer for 18 years, recalled that the prize he'd ever received was a certificate of merit for best board craser, when he was in fourth grade. Several years later, he received a medal "for showing up every day for three years" during World War II. And here in Israel, his House Committee had given him a token of its appreciation for keeping the books balanced.

PRIMAKOV

(Continued from Page 9)
paper about the Russians' visit (though their names were not published). Rabin ordered an investigation, including lie-detector tests for those in the know. But the leak did not cause a break in contact.

BY SEPTEMBER 15, 1977, Primakov was meeting with premier Menachem Begin. The Soviets were conducting secret talks with US president Jimmy Carter's administration about reconvening the Geneva Conference, and tried to protect their flank against the Israelis. Begin threw out his proposal for a secret visit to the Kremlin, saying: "I am ready only for a public visit."

THE most heated political debate this week was not on crucial issues that will determine our destiny, nor even on personalities or sloganeering. No. It was about dating.

Intense altercations in the Knesset seemed to indicate there wasn't a day in either the secular or Jewish calendar that all parties could agree on for the election. It seems that if every day is not a holiday, a mourning day, a memorial day, or a fast, it is a rest day from any or all of the above.

May 28 was too soon after Shavuot and haredim feared desecration of the holidays by unseemly campaigning.

May 21 was out because it fell on the "limited days" before Shavuot, when no songs are allowed.

May 20 is a Monday - no good because there is a tradition from the founding of the state for elections to be on a Tuesday.

May 14 was good for Labor, but too tight for Likud.

June 4 suited Likud and the haredim but not Labor. Labor's problem with June 4 came from bereaved families of war heroes who asked that elections not be held then because of memorial days for the fallen.

Also, it might bring the June 4, 1967, borders to the front of voters' minds.

Then there were the students. Yes, it's exam time.

Any later date might just clash with something really serious like international soccer or the Olympics.

Then there's summer vacation time - and the wealthy masses (traditional Labor supporters, of course) might be fleeing the country.

The Likud, after three years of shouting for "immediate elections" because the government "has no mandate" for the Oslo process suddenly became the soul of magnanimity, willing to postpone election day to the horizon.

Suddenly, "we need more time to explain our position to the voters" became the Likud cry.

Oh yes, sneered the coalition, then why is Likud so vehemently opposed to canceling the ban on politicians using the electronic media in the month before elections?

When the Likud fired off its "Peres will divide Jerusalem" campaign guns at the start of the week, Labor decided May 28 gave the Likud far too much time to repeat itself and opted for an even earlier date.

This had the haredim and religious parties up on their hind legs, loudly bemoaning that the last three weeks of May are the in-between days of the Omer count, excluding chants and songs.

No National Religious Party chants or Shas incantations? That makes for dull election broad-

I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

casts indeed.

National Religious Party leaders, who hardly spring to mind when sartorial elegance is mentioned, suddenly became coy about their image. How could they possibly poke unseemly stubbled chins in the face of the public on days when shaving is forbidden? (No one wondered how Rais Arafat won his election.)

In the end, a Purim miracle

chief of staff Dan Shomron, who stood like an exclamation mark emphasizing the movement's respectable, Golan, security-minded platform.

Ah - insubstantial pageant faded! Shomron has "vanished into air, into thin thin air" along with Haim Guri, Amos Horev and other Third Way spirits.

More remarkably, Kahalani, the man and the issue, was nowhere in sight. The party's information chief Yehuda Harel and Prof. Alex Lobozky presented the platform of missing planks.

Filling in the gaps were Labor principles seasoned with Meimad ideas on religion and state. All blabbed on about the need to deepen education in Jewish heritage while eliminating religious coercion and legislation.

The word Golan wasn't heard.

A BRIDGE TOO FAR

David Levy, after an appropriate nine-month gestation, gave birth to his new party, Gasher (Bridge) promised to, er, "bridge" the troubled waters between right and left, religious and secular, Jew and Arab, rich and poor, etc. and etc.



MK Avigdor Kahalani may not want to face the way the Golan is going. (Haseoch Guttmann)

arrived early. As soon as the coalition and opposition agreed on May 29, all the other parties heroically dropped objections and agreed.

GOLAN, GOING, GONE

Election quiz: What party opposes religious coercion, demands minimum religious legislation, wants to reexamine the religious status quo and supports state funding for the Reform community?

Yes, of course, Meretz. And Meimad makes two.

But the real right answer is the Third. The Third Way presented its platform at a press conference this week as soon as it had declared itself an official party.

It's worth remembering this outfit was born from MK Avigdor Kahalani's passionate opposition to giving up the Golan Heights. Its logo was Kahalani's good-guy smile in a "war-hero" aura. One man, one issue.

But, oh dear, the Golan is not getting off the ground as an election issue after even the Oslo accords have been recognized by Likud as a fait accompli.

The Third Wayers cast around for some other spark to ignite the public imagination. So they decided to disguise themselves as Meimad.

At the last appearance of the Third Way before the media, Kahalani was flanked by former



David Levy sees himself as a bridge over troubled water. (Ephraim Kilshok)

A truly central path, a steady viaduct, a third way. Wait a minute - Third Way? Or is it a bridge too far?

Actually Levy's platform could be from some garden nursery where they first grass roots for Labor. This whole "center ground" thing is becoming a farce, grumbled parliamentarians. Labor leans rightward and Likud edges leftward as both also reach for the center spot.

The most everyone could agree was that Levy has built himself a bridge back to government.

RED FLAG AND BULL

The historic Red Flag sneakily slithered down the Histadrut flagpole last week and was replaced

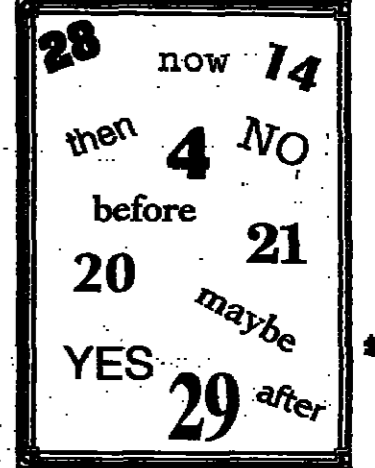
by an abominable rag depicting either a giant HIV virus or the logo of a Korean widget factory.

Nobody confessed to the crime. It appeared to be some spontaneous growth emanating from the hole left by dear departed former chairman Haim Ramon.

It coincided with the Histadrut's decision to strangle *Davar Rishon*.

Suspiciously, wrapping up both *Davar* and the red flag were Ramonists.

A glimpse of either of the two rags was wont to set Ramon ranting and raving about passing



Such are the divisions in society that no one could even agree on an election date.

Bolshevik values tottering on the rim of history's trash can. He loved to hate them and folding them up would tidy away all they stood for - workers' whines, sweating masses, all that stuff.

Yet, in less than a week new leader Amir Peretz told the Histadrut parliament that *Davar Rishon* would carry on and no more companies would be closed.

Peretz at last seemed to perceive in the sound of *Davar* and other companies closing the death rattle of the Histadrut itself.

"Peretz realizes that if he continues Ramon's line of closing things and destroying, he will be dumped into political oblivion," said Histadrut executive member Binyamin Gonen. "After all, he too is running for primaries."

Gonen takes credit for changing Peretz's mind on both *Davar Rishon* and the red flag. At least, he was the only executive member to oppose the *Davar* closure as first steps was then joined by Efraim Zilony.

As for the red flag, Gonen noticed it was gone and stormed into Peretz's office demanding to know who gave the order. Peretz was astonished. He was not aware that the flag had been lowered and had no idea who authorized it.

He told the Histadrut parliament the red flag will return as soon as a new Histadrut logo is designed. The red background will remain.

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The Rabin Government's Road to the Oslo Accord

David Makovsky, the diplomatic correspondent of The Jerusalem Post, provides a clear, detailed and fascinating account of how, and equally important, why the Oslo agreement came about. "...the best insight into the Israeli side of the negotiations."

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Anatomy of the Conflict in the Near East, sought to justify the PLO's extremism by contending: "The total secession of the PLO by the Israeli leadership has blocked the way to solving the conflict, and brought the perpetuation of extremism in the Palestinian resistance movement."

This was the spirit in which he spoke with Israelis visiting Moscow.

In 1982, Knesset members Rabbi Menachem Cohen and Chaika Grossman were surprised to see on a government office wall in Moscow a copper map of the region showing the name "Palestine" in place of Israel. It was a gift from an Arab government.

Primakov explained. He asked them not to publicize what they had seen. In conversations with Israelis visiting Moscow, Primakov tried to argue that Israel's interest was to prevent the regional conflict from going global. Israel needed Soviet cooperation, since the Arab regimes were unstable, he said, and only a guarantee by the superpowers could ensure a settlement. It is safe to assume he did not imagine the Arab regimes would outlast the Soviet Union.

Primakov, seen here with Saddam Hussein, tried to save Iraq in the Gulf war, claiming Saddam suffered from a 'Massada complex.'

Israel Summer Camps Advertising Section
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This year, the popular Jerusalem Post Summer Camp Section will be appearing twice: April 12 and again just after Shavuot.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1996

15

Software industry expects boom in '96

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE software industry is expecting 1996 to be a record year with exports forecasted to jump by 20 percent from \$300 million in 1995 to \$360m.

International corporations have also expressed their faith in Israel as an international software research and development center.

Consortium preparing for Trans-Israel Highway bid

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

THE first consortium following the publication of the tender for the Trans-Israel Highway has formed and will issue its bid at the end of March.

ration, said he had no information about other consortiums that are planning to bid, but added that 30 companies have shown interest in bidding since the tender was published in December, 1995.

sons Brinkhoff, a European company that did preliminary research into building a subway in Tel Aviv.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hashmira to set up plant in Eilat: Hashmira Security Technologies will invest an initial \$500,000 in establishing a new production facility in Eilat.

Bethucha offers consultancy services: Bethucha Securities and Investments has started to offer the public consultancy and management advice on all mutual funds in Israel.

Consumer councils protest deductibles: Insurance companies should not be allowed to charge deductibles for stolen cars, despite Insurance Commissioner Doron Shoror's proposal.

Knesset to give extra push to Free Export Processing Zone

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset is slated to complete an amendment to the Free Export Processing Zone law next week, thus enabling the project to get off the ground - 1 1/2 years late.

atives of the franchisee. The new bill replaces the franchisee's representatives with seven business sector representatives chosen by a public commission.

LanOptics posts 43% rise in profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

LANOPTICS yesterday announced a 43 percent rise in annual net profits to \$4.33 million compared with \$3.02m. in 1994. Revenues went up to \$23.32m. from \$20.44m.

Caribe Construction (74%) and fully-owned subsidiaries Elco Services, Electra Contracting Europe, Electra Real Estate and Keidar Systems.

Deal close on Claridge-Arison purchase of Bank Hapoalim

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Claridge-Arison consortium and MI Holdings, the government-owned company in charge of the bank sale process, are expected to finalize the sale of Bank Hapoalim shortly after the Treasury and banks sign the debt arrangement plan with the kibbutzim.

Fiat's Garuzzo fired in management shake-up

TURIN (Reuters) - Italian automotive group Fiat's chief operating officer, Giorgio Garuzzo, is to leave the group at the end of the month as part of a shake-up of the company's top management, a Fiat spokesman said.

WANTED: "GAME" DEVELOPERS GT Interactive, the international publishers of DOOM and Hexon, is looking for proven Game Developers to provide new titles for international publication.

ASSISTANCE TO U.S. TAXPAYERS JERUSALEM Mar. 5, 7 AOCI, 6 Mane St. Mar. 6 9:00-12:00 American Cultural Center - Morning Seminar, 19 Keren Hayesod.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS Table with columns for Currency (U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, etc.), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS.

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ON WEDNESDAY - MONEY DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST Will arms manufacturer TAAS survive? By Steve Rodan - DON'T MISS IT!

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DWELLINGS

General

EXCHANGE

MANHATTAN: 1 BEDROOM, West 75th Street, exchange - Jerusalem, Passover. 02-634837.

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Outside Israel

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ART GUIDE HAIFA THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Hebrew University), Permanent exhibition: "The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period + Caspasia - a Mercantile City by the Sea - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7, Fri. 10-1. Sat. 10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

ART GUIDE JERUSALEM Museums OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE TEL AVIV TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Eight in November - Gilsberg, Gross, Reisman, Shelesnyak, Almog, Berg, Gal, David Ven Dyar and his Collection. HELEN RUSKINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.-Thu., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Art Education Center, closed for renovations. Tel. 69191556/7.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Friday, February 23 Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Strauss A, 3 Avigdor, 706960; Belsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shufat, Shufat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058. Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6461; Bavli, 1 Uziel, cnr Teladna, 004-0552. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Doron, 6 Goula, Ra'anana, 771-6084. Netanya: Hanassi, 36 Weizmann, 823639. Krayot area: Hyper Pharm, Hypercol Bldg., Krayot Aitz Givon, 872-0161. Haifa: Magen David, 13 Goula, 982-5205. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merotzim, 6 Masek (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Har' Mail, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS Friday, February 16 Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal); Hadassah Ein Kerem (Surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bilur Holim (pediatrics). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, internal, ichlov (surgery). Netanya: Laridco. Saturday, February 17 Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bilur Holim (obstetrics); Shaara Zedek (pediatrics). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics), Ichlov (Internal, surgery). Netanya: Laridco. Magen David Adom in emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition: Ashdod 591333 Kfar Sava 902222 Ashdod 551332 Netanya 912333 Haifa 972767 Netanya 604444 Beit Shean 526135 Petah Tikva 931111 Krayot area: Superpharm, Hakrayot, 44 Hapalmar, Krayot Bialik, 877-9320. Haifa: Massada, 30 Massada, 866-5806. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merotzim, 6

POLICE 100 FIRE 102 FIRST AID 101 Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-505720. Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-6514111, 02-5461133 (also in Russian), 07-376310, 06-550506 (also in Amharic). Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eren - Emotional First Aid, Jerusalem 015030, Tel Aviv 5461111 (only during hours 09:11-13). Haifa, 9872222. Beersheva 281128, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9988410, Kfar Sava 974555, Haadera 346789. Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5234819, 5449191 (Heb.), Jerusalem 295558, Haifa 8600111, Eilat 31977. Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chie St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-438882. Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-247676.

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Sharon Area

GENERAL

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LIVE-IN HELP NEEDED, baby, light housework. Warm family. Tel. 08-882-064.

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Sharon Area

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Haifa and North

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1985, IBM CLONE, with keyboard, screen, computer table. Double disk drive, monochrome. Perfect order, lovingly maintained. Best offer. Tel. 02-767-967(NS).

GREAT BARGAIN. MACINTOSH SE/30 + modem + HP Inkjet printer. Fast 100 processor, laser system, Eng/Heb w/ software. Tel. 02-565-247(NS).

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General

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Chirac ends draft

PARIS (AP) - President Jacques Chirac announced a stunning overhaul of the military yesterday, including the phasing out of France's 198-year-old draft to create a cheaper, tougher fighting force.

Interviewed live by two national television networks, Chirac said France's mandatory 10-

month military service will be abolished by 2002, replaced by a smaller, all-volunteer force. Young men still may have to perform a "civilian service."

France's military of half a million soldiers, one of the world's most powerful, will be cut to 350,000 within six years, he said.

Report: Hang glider was pilotless

DAVID RUDGE

THE abortive airborne terror attack north of the security zone on Tuesday was carried out using a pilotless motorized hang glider, apparently operated by remote control, according to reports from Lebanon.

The attempt failed when the aircraft, packed with explosives, blew up in midair near Majdal Salim village, not far from where it was launched, after apparently hitting power lines.

Lebanese radio stations and news agencies carried reports yesterday that a "previously un-

known group calling itself the Palestinian Islamic Revolutionary Army had claimed responsibility for the operation. They quoted the caller as saying the target of the drone bomber was Kibbutz Manara in the Upper Galilee.

Hizbullah has denied involvement in the abortive attempt, although the craft was launched from an area under the direct control of its activists. The naming of the unknown group was

seen as an attempt to cover up the failure of the operation and its real perpetrators.

If the reports are correct, however, that there was no pilot aboard the aircraft, it would mark a potentially dangerous development in the terror threat emanating from Lebanon.

Israel Air Force planes blasted Hizbullah targets north of the security zone in south Lebanon early yesterday for the second day running since the failed attack.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits on the targets, and that all the planes returned safely.

Reports from Lebanon said jets fired at least 10 rockets at suspected Hizbullah strongholds in the vicinity of deserted villages in the Jabal Shafi region.

According to the reports, Hizbullah gunmen fired a volley of shoulder-held surface-to-air Strella missiles, without hitting any of the planes.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

CONGRESS

(Continued from Page 1)
The Israeli Embassy said it would not respond to the report, because Israel has not been accused of anything.

Companies involved in such activities are connected to corporations in Australia, Austria, England, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland, the Times said.

Meanwhile, CIA director John Deutch yesterday called the recent Defense Department memo alluding to American Jews as foreign agents for Israel a "terrible report."

Deutch, who until recently served as the second-ranking Pentagon official, told a Senate intelligence committee hearing the report "makes assumptions about how individual Americans may act, which I think is inappropriate, and I think the response you will get from the Department of Defense will be of the same nature."

Committee chairman Arlen Specter told Deutch that he has not yet received a response from Defense Secretary William Perry to a letter seeking clarification of the report, which was revealed three weeks ago.

Specter quoted the memo as saying that many of the US's "military friends" represent America's "economic industrial threat."

SARID

(Continued from Page 1)
British Council for culture and science in Israel.

Sarid, who spoke after Aloni, dedicated a large part of his speech to the late Yitzhak Rabin and the long way the two had come together, including their agreements and disagreements. Sarid held up a letter from Leah Rabin congratulating him on his election as Meretz leader.

Addressing Palestinian Authority member Nabil Shaath, who attended the gathering, Sarid expressed hope that, "The next time we meet you will be a representative of an independent Palestinian state."

To the enthusiastic applause of the council members, Sarid added that this Palestinian state is already on its way and in fact already exists.

BEILIN

(Continued from Page 1)
intellectual Ahmed Khalidi.

When Peres voiced displeasure about the disclosure of the talks, Beilin sharply minimized their importance. "There is no secret Oslo-style agreement nor a joint document. Am I not allowed to have meetings with Arabs and exchange ideas? I had the meetings because, as I have said publicly, it is important to know each other's red lines and thereby reach agreement on principles in preparation for the final status talks."

While there is wide speculation that Peres himself must have been aware of the talks - due to repeated press reports of meet-

ings between the academics and Palestinians and since it involved one of his closest aides - his office denies this. Peres's spokeswoman publicly claimed he only learned of the talks after they were completed, and disagreed vociferously with some of the conclusions.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office insist Peres contacted Beilin and voiced his anger. Peres declined to comment yesterday.

Sources said Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir was also furious that he was not informed of the content of the Beilin-Abbas talks. Both Savir and chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Qreia minimized their significance, calling them "academic seminars."

NETANYAHU

(Continued from Page 1)
the same caliber. Peres is experienced and Bibi did not even handle the talks with Tsomet all too brilliantly. One would hardly trust him with negotiations with the PLO."

Ben-Eliezer said, "Netanyahu is sacrificing his party, its ideology, and its aims in a desperate bid to win the premiership."

Meanwhile, Barak denied at the party political bureau session yesterday that any agreement has been reached with the PLO to establish a Palestinian state. Media reports yesterday said Minister Yossi Beilin and Palestinian negotiator Mahmud Abbas had drafted an agreement on the final settlement, which included a Palestinian state.

RELIGIOUS

(Continued from Page 1)

Religious Party all agree to join, and if it does not "run contrary to Halacha." This, he said, would preclude the inclusion of a woman as one of the NRP representatives.

Shtockhammer also confirmed that two of the names mentioned as possible heads of the list were Rabbi Simcha Hacohen Kook, chief rabbi of Rehovot, and Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman, from Migdal Ha'emek.

Yesterday, a number of businessmen, including some prominent names in the settlement movement, met in the Tel Aviv area to raise money to push the idea.

Many settlement activists have come out squarely behind the idea, apparently in the hope this

would prevent Shas from forming a coalition with Labor.

The Rabbinical Forum for Israel, headed by former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira, distributed a leaflet calling for the formation of this bloc and suggesting that the decisions of the bloc, if it is formed, obligate all the factions, and that no faction be able to separately enter coalition negotiations.

Meanwhile, officials in both Meimad and the NRP admitted that they were talking about merging. Meimad head and Minister without Portfolio Yehuda Amital said his objective in merging with the NRP would be to moderate the party and to bring it to the center. "I think this would strengthen the moderate wing in the NRP, and I see this as important," he said.

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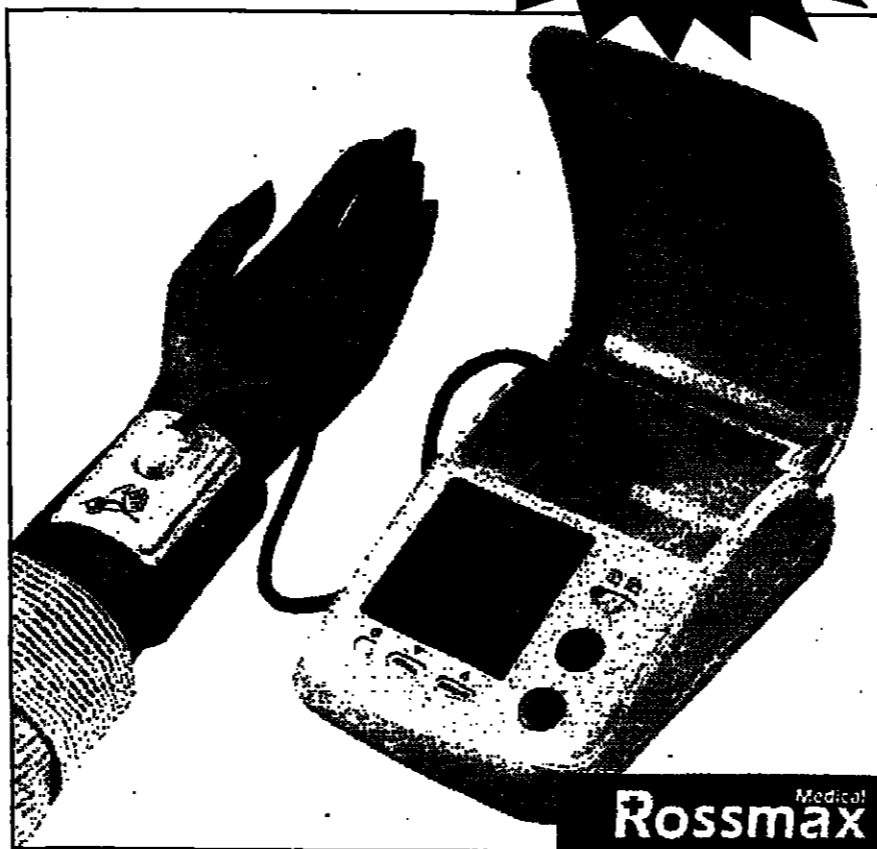
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Hick leads England to victory over Holland

PESHAWAR (Bloomberg) - England defeated Holland by 49 runs in Peshawar, Pakistan yesterday to virtually guarantee the squad a place in the World Cup quarter-finals.

But, despite the fairly comfortable margin of victory, it was another far from convincing performance from Mike Atherton's team.

England batted solidly after winning the toss, the highlight of their total of 279-4 a partnership of 143 for the third wicket between man-of-the-match Graeme Hick and Graham Thorpe.

Hick completed his century with a towering six in the final over of the innings, while Thorpe showed his best form of the competition so far.

England's bowling and fielding was far less impressive, however, and the Holland squad made a decent list of their run chase despite the fact they were always likely to fall short of their target.

Dominic Cork and Darren Gough, in particular, bowled erratically, while the fielding was sloppy and well short of the standard set by some of the other teams in the competition.

England's innings got off to a poor start when Alec Stewart played a loose drive and was bowled by Paul-Jan Bakker for just five.

Neil Smith and Hick took the score to 41 before the Warwickshire all-rounder was caught by Floris Jansen.

Thorpe immediately looked at home on a slow pitch and he and Hick combined good running between the wickets with some clever stroke play in a fluent partnership.

The Surrey left-hander eventually fell for 89, trapped lbw by the persistent Roland Lefebvre, but Hick continued to keep the scoreboard ticking over at a steady rate and his century came off 133 balls, including two sixes and six fours.

Atherton was bowled by Stephen Lubbers for just 10 as he tried to run the ball to third man and Neil Fairbrother joined Hick for a productive last few overs.

Holland made a disastrous start when their most experienced batsman Clarke was trapped lbw by Cork.

But Peter Cantrell and Tim de Leede took the attack to England and played a number of crisp shots on both sides of the wicket.



MAN OF THE MATCH - Graeme Hick bats en route to an unbeaten 104 yesterday. (Reuters)

Cantrell fell to Phil DePreitas, who was the pick of the English bowlers, but de Leede continued to score at a good rate.

He became the third victim of an lbw decision with the score on 70 and Lubbers soon edged an outswinger to Jacques Russell to leave the score at 84.

Klaas van Noortwijk and the 18-year-old Bas Zuiderent then came together in an entertaining partnership of 114, but despite their efforts to keep the scoreboard moving along, they were

always falling behind the required run rate.

Van Noortwijk struck two sixes and three fours in reaching a well-deserved half century, but he perished soon afterwards when he was caught at long off by Gough off Peter Martin.

Zuiderent also passed the 50 mark before holing out to Thorpe at long on and Lefebvre and Marcel Schewe survived comfortably until the end of the innings.

ENGLAND

Stewart b Bakker 5
N Smith c Clarke b Jansen 10
Hick not out 104
Thorpe lbw b Lefebvre 89
Atherton b Lubbers 10
Fairbrother not out 24
Total (for 4 wickets, 50 overs) 279
Fall: 1-11 2-42 3-185 4-212

HOLLAND

Clarke lbw b Cork 0
Central lbw b DePreitas 26
de Leede lbw b DePreitas 41
Lubbers c Russell b DePreitas 9
van Noortwijk c Gough b Martin 54
Zuiderent c Thorpe b Martin 54
Lefebvre not out 10
Schewe not out 10
Total (for six wickets, 50 overs) 230
Fall: 1-11 2-49 3-70 4-81 5-195 6-208

Villa advances to final Manchester United pulls closer to Newcastle in Premier League

LONDON (AP) - Aston Villa advanced to the League Cup final at Wembley after a scoreless draw Wednesday night against Arsenal, going through on the away goals rule.

Playing in front of a boisterous home crowd at Villa Park in Birmingham, Aston Villa reached the final for a record-equalling seventh time by holding Arsenal scoreless for 90 minutes of regulation and 30 minutes of extra time.

Villa advanced on the strength of the two goals it scored - both in the first leg of the semi-finals last week at Arsenal.

Villa's opponent in the March 24 final will be determined Sunday in the other semi-final between Leeds and Birmingham City. Leeds won the first leg game 2-1.

The Villa victory was tarnished when Arsenal and Villa fans confronted each other on the field after the game ended. Police and stewards moved in quickly to restore order.

Arsenal, which got two goals from Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp in the first 30 minutes of the first-leg game, played more cautiously this time and paid the price.

Both teams had several scoring

chances. Paul Merson and Nigel Winterburn came close for Arsenal, while Yorke always looked in danger of scoring his 10th goal in eight games for Villa. But goalkeepers David Seaman of Arsenal and Mark Bosnich of Villa came through with crucial saves.

England captain and midfielder David Platt, who had been sidelined for a month with a knee injury, came on as a substitute for Arsenal in extra time but couldn't inspire a goal. Instead, he received a yellow card for a foul on Yorke.

In Premier League action, West Ham beat leaders Newcastle 2-0 and Manchester United closed to within six points of first place with a 2-0 win over Everton.

Goals by Danny Williamson after seven minutes and Tony Cottee in the 82nd minute gave West Ham its fifth consecutive league victory.

It was only the fourth league defeat of the season for Newcastle, which gave Colombian star Faustino Asprilla his first start since his recent transfer from Parma.

Asprilla hit the post with one shot and had two possible penalty appeals turned down. But Asprilla and fellow striker Les Ferdinand failed to break down the formidable

West Ham defense, anchored by Julian Dicks and Croatia's Slaven Bilic.

At Old Trafford, goals by Roy Keane in the 30th minute and Ryan Giggs in the 82nd gave Manchester United a convincing win over Everton, last year's FA Cup champions. French star Eric Cantona helped set up both goals.

The win brought United to within six points of Newcastle, the leaders, with a game in hand, have 60 points to 54 for United.

Both of Wednesday night's fifth-round FA Cup games - Leeds vs. Port Vale and Grimsby vs. Chelsea - ended in scoreless draws and will be decided in replays next week.

Premier League

Club	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Newcastle	26	13	4	9	22	22	43
Man Utd	27	16	6	5	49	29	54
Liverpool	26	14	7	5	50	22	49
Aston Villa	26	13	6	6	34	16	45
Tottenham	26	11	6	9	35	28	42
Blackburn	26	12	5	9	40	28	41
Arsenal	26	11	8	7	34	25	41
Everton	27	11	7	9	33	29	40
North Ham	26	10	6	10	33	38	40
Chelsea	27	10	9	8	31	28	39
West Ham	27	11	5	11	31	25	38
Leeds	25	10	10	5	27	23	40
Sheff Wed	26	7	8	11	25	41	29
Southampton	25	10	10	6	25	26	25
Wimbledon	26	6	14	5	23	29	24
Coventry	26	6	12	8	23	33	24
Manchester City	26	6	6	14	16	26	24
QPR	27	6	3	18	22	41	21
Bolton	27	4	3	19	28	52	16

State Cup action to the fore in weekend soccer

STATE Cup eighth round matches are the order of the weekend soccer action as both the National League and the Second Division take a break.

Highlighted amongst the eight matches of the competition's last 16 is undoubtedly the clash between Hapoel Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv at Kiryat Eliezer.

The two sides meet for the second time in consecutive weeks, and the Haifaite are raring to go, just waiting to exact revenge for the defeat they suffered at the hands of the league leaders at Bloomfield last week.

That win by Maccabi dealt a severe blow to the Haifa men's title chances, and their only real hope of gaining some hefty silver-

ware this season would now appear to lie with a win in the State Cup.

Hapoel were runners up to Maccabi Haifa in last year's final. In the early match at Kiryat Eliezer tomorrow, Maccabi Haifa take on Second Division Maccabi Acre.

Another match to watch out for could be the one in Herzliya where the home Maccabi team take on Betar Jerusalem, who play at the same ground for the second straight week, after playing their home radius match in the league there last weekend.

Maccabi Sha'arayim is the only Third Division club left in the competition, and hosts Second

Division Ironi Ashdod with an upset certainly not to be ruled out.

The outcome of all matches will be particularly prominent in Toto punters' minds as a bumper payout of NIS 14 million is on offer this weekend.

This weekend's State Cup eighth round fixtures (all matches tomorrow at 14:30 unless stated):

Hapoel Haifa v Maccabi Tel Aviv; Kiryat Eliezer 19:30; Maccabi Haifa v Maccabi Acre (Second Division); Kiryat Eliezer 19:30; Maccabi Herzliya v Betar Jerusalem; Herzliya 16:00; Maccabi Sha'arayim (Third Division) v Ironi Ashdod (Second Division); Sha'arayim 14:30; Zaitim Holon v Betar Tel Aviv; Holon today, 14:30; Ironi Rishon v Hapoel Beit She'an; Rishon; Hapoel Kiryat Shmona (Second Division) v Maccabi Petah Tikva; Kiryat Shmona; Hapoel Ramat Gan (Second Division) v Bnei Yehuda, Crater Ground.

Sabres stop Penguins

BUFFALO, New York (AP) - The Buffalo Sabres blew a three-goal lead before Dave Hannan, Pat LaFontaine and Randy Burridge scored third-period goals Wednesday night in a 6-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Sabres, who had scored two goals or fewer in eight straight games, got 40 saves from Dominik Hasek.

LaFontaine started the scoring in the first period and put the game away on a wraparound with 1:30 remaining. Burridge also scored twice, including an empty-net goal with 56 seconds remaining.

Pittsburgh's Petr Nedved scored twice in the third on 2-on-1 breaks. Mario Lemieux was held without a point for just the fifth time in 49 games this season.

Lightning 3, Maple Leafs 2 (OT) Brian Bellows goal 1:42 into overtime capped a Tampa Bay rally from a two-goal deficit.

Jason Wiemer passed from behind the net and Bellows whacked at the puck as he was being pushed to the ice by defenseman Todd Gill at the side of the crease. The puck hopped over goalie Felix Potvin and the Lightning players performed a group hug as the capacity crowd of 15,700 sighed in disbelief.

Host Toronto was unbeaten in 22 previous overtime games (4-0-18) since a March 28, 1994, defeat in Vancouver.

Rob Zamuner's goal with 2:48 left in the third period forced overtime.

Whalers 5, Canadiens 3 Sami Kapanev scored two third-period goals as the streaking Whalers rallied.

The host Whalers, 6-1-0 during February, trailed 3-1 early in the third period when Kapanev, Steve Rice and Andrei Nikolishin followed with goals

one minute apart that chased Canadianis goalie Pat Jablonski. Kapanev scored again in the game's final minute on a pass from Brendan Shanahan, who had three assists. Glen Wesley also scored for Hartford.

Vincent Damphousse had a goal and an assist and David Wilkie scored his first NHL goal for the Canadiens.

Panthers 4, Devils 1 Scott Mellanby and Stu Barnes scored 1:25 apart in the second period and Mark Fitzpatrick had 30 saves for visiting Florida.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:

Hartford 5, Montreal 3
Buffalo 6, Pittsburgh 3
Florida 4, New Jersey 1
Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 2 (OT)
Vancouver 5, Winnipeg 3
Edmonton 7, Los Angeles 2
Anaheim 4, Boston 3 (OT)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Rangers	34	14	11	79	212	182
Florida	25	17	7	77	205	173
Philadelphia	25	17	11	69	189	151
Washington	28	23	7	63	185	155
Tampa Bay	26	24	8	60	177	189
New Jersey	25	25	8	58	146	141
N.Y. Islanders	16	32	8	40	164	217

Northwest Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Pittsburgh	35	19	4	74	260	193
Montreal	22	27	7	65	188	177
Hartford	25	26	6	56	164	178
Boston	24	25	8	58	196	202
Buffalo	23	29	8	58	187	192
Ottawa	12	43	3	27	138	220

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Detroit	42	11	4	88	215	129
Chicago	32	18	11	75	205	159
St. Louis	28	24	10	60	180	171
Toronto	25	25	10	60	178	178
Winnipeg	23	30	4	50	194	207
Dallas	18	31	11	43	185	205

Pacific Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Colorado	32	17	10	74	233	169
Vancouver	23	23	14	60	218	204
Calgary	22	27	11	55	175	185
Los Angeles	18	29	14	60	197	224
Edmonton	21	31	6	48	159	218
Anaheim	21	33	5	47	184	195
San Jose	19	40	6	32	158	232

Local track athletes get the jump on the competition

LOCAL SCENE
HEATHER CHAIT

WHY should our local track athletes be content to let the swimmers crack all the records?

Philip Krasnov and Ofir Shmueli decided to join in the action this week. Krasnov broke a record in the 400 meters race in an indoor tournament in Switzerland, lowering the previous time of Ilan Goldwasser's 49.49 seconds to 49.37 and Shmueli ran the 60m distance in 8.21, improving his own record by one-tenth of a second.

Not letting them pass her by was new immigrant from Rumania, Viorica Aufleyer, who also set a new record, in the 800m, in her home country. She did it in 2:11.45 minutes, breaking Edna Lankri's time by 53-hundredths of a second.

The national women's table-tennis team has reason to celebrate. After losing 4-2 to Austria early in the week in the European Nations Championship, Group A, the local champs returned with a vengeance two days later and smashed the Austrians 4-0, for an overall score of 6-4 and more importantly, the right to remain in Group A next year.

Team members Sarit Hosh, Tatiana Shupevitar and Bela Katzoriner all managed 2-0 victories.

Whatever the answer, the toddlers of Jerusalem Post soccer reporters Ori and Derek, sharing their first soccer outing together, definitely made their proud dads see soccer as a whole new ballgame!

proved disastrous and included a disqualification due to an early start.

Now tournaments in France and Italy await the Chantals to decide if they, and not Eli Zuckerman and Sa'ar Behr, go to Atlanta.

Smashnova aims for Atlanta Tennis star Anna Smashnova left on Tuesday for a series of tournaments, keeping the destination of Atlanta firmly in mind.

Smashova, accompanied by her coach Shimon Rapoport, will first play in Linz, Austria and then in the Indian Well and Key Biscayne tournaments where her results will directly affect her Olympic chances.

Towards the end of March, Smashnova will return home for the 24-nation Fed Cup to be held at Ramat Hasharon from March 25-31.

Destined to make headlines in Atlanta is Russia's Olympic synchronized swimming team who arrived in Israel this week for a two-week training camp at Wingate.

The squad is ranked among the world's top three teams and could well impart a tip or two to our own squad.

Next generation of sports writers? Did one-year-old Amit Lewis and four-year-old Guy Fatal leave the Teddy Stadium last Friday after watching Hapoel Jerusalem go down against Hapoel Kfar Shalem, knowing more about soccer or about swearing?

Whatever the answer, the toddlers of Jerusalem Post soccer reporters Ori and Derek, sharing their first soccer outing together, definitely made their proud dads see soccer as a whole new ballgame!

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The Philadelphia 76ers tied a 41-year-old NBA record for fewest points in a game, managing just 57 Wednesday night in a 66-37 loss to the Miami Heat.

The Milwaukee Hawks set the record February 27, 1955 against the Boston Celtics in a game played at Providence.

The combined total of 123 was the second-lowest in NBA history since the inception of the shot clock. The Hawks and Celtics managed a combined 119 points in their 1955 game.

Philadelphia made just 1 of 19 3-pointers and hit 31.9 percent of its field goals. Derrick Alston made one free throw and missed his second with 41 seconds left to put Philadelphia at 57 points, and with 10 seconds left, Alston missed a short baseline shot and Weatherspoon missed a follow shot.

Miami then dribbled out the clock.

Knicks 113, Pistons 110 (OT) Willie Anderson, playing just his second game for visiting New York, hit the go-ahead jumper in overtime as the Knicks concluded a season sweep of Detroit.

Anderson, acquired last Sunday from Toronto, had 13 points, seven assists and six rebounds in 33 minutes. His jumper from the right wing with 28.9 left in overtime to put the Knicks ahead 111-110, and Gary Grant's two free throws gave the Knicks their final margin.

Anthony Mason scored 24 points. Hubert Davis had a season-high 22 points and Patrick Ewing had 30 for the Knicks before hobbling off the court with four seconds left.

Otis Thorpe matched his season-high with 27 points and Hill finished with 25 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists for his fifth triple-double of the season.

Magic 99, Pacers 97 Dennis Scott scored 32 points, including eight 3-pointers and a game-winning jumper at the buzzer, as Orlando got its first win at Market Square Arena since November 27, 1992, a span that covered 10 games including four playoff meetings.

Shaquille O'Neal had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Anfernee Hardaway 21 points.

The game featured 19 lead changes and 10 ties, but 3-pointers were the difference. Scott was 8-of-13 from behind the arc and Orlando was 12-of-28, Indiana was 2-of-11.

The Pacers lost their third consecutive home game and the fifth in six outings.

Timberwolves 120, Rockets 101 Kevin Garnett dominated the fourth quarter and turned a tight game into a blowout for the host Timberwolves.

Garnett, a 19-year-old rookie who entered the NBA straight out of high



THERE IT IS - Detroit's Michael Curry slams for two as New York's Patrick Ewing (far left) looks on. (Reuters)

school, had nine straight points, two rebounds and two shots in a two-minute stretch during the final period. He finished with 17 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots as the Wolves snapped a four-game losing streak.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 30 points and Sam Cassell 20 for the Rockets, who had won four of their previous five games.

Nets 94, Bucks 92 (OT) Armon Gilliam scored 23 points, including the 10,000th of his career and two crucial baskets in overtime, and visiting New Jersey won its season-high fifth straight.

Sherman Douglas miffed a 15-footer just before the buzzer that would have sent the game into double-overtime.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:

Miami 66, Philadelphia 57
Charlotte 96, Washington 92
New York 113, Detroit 110 (OT)
Orlando 99, Indiana 97
Minnesota 120, Houston 101
New Jersey 94, Milwaukee 92 (OT)
Dallas 93, Sacramento 91
Phoenix 120, Boston 107
L.A. Lakers 112, L.A. Clippers 108
Golden State 95, San Antonio 92

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Club	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	39	14	.736	-
New York	32	19	.627	6
Miami	24	29	.452	13
New Jersey	23	29	.442	15 1/2
Washington	23	29	.442	15 1/2
Boston	19	34	.358	20
Philadelphia	10	41	.196	28

Central Division

Club	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	47	9	.804	-
Indiana	32	20	.615	15
Cleveland	30	21	.588	15 1/2
Atlanta	28	23	.549	18
Detroit	26	24	.520	20
Charlotte	26	25	.510	20 1/2
Milwaukee	20	31	.392	27
Toronto	14	36	.280	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Club	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	35	18	.686	-
San Antonio	34	17	.667	1
Houston	34	20	.630	2 1/2
Denver	21	30	.412	14
Dallas	17	34	.333	18
Minnesota	15	36	.292	20
Vancouver	11	40	.216	24

Pacific Division

Club	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	30	19	.611	-
L.A. Lakers	29	19	.604	1
Phoenix	25	26	.492	11
Sacramento	24	25	.480	14
Golden State	25	27	.481	14 1/2
Portland	24	29	.452	16
L.A. Clippers	17	35	.327	22 1/2

ON TUESDAY - SPORTS DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

The Cricket World Cup hits its second week and all the latest NBA and British Soccer News, in the 12-page supplement, The World of Sport.

DON'T MISS IT!

Timberwolves trade Laettner to Hawks

The Minnesota Timberwolves became the first team to pull the trigger on a trade before last night's NBA trade deadline, dealing forward Christian Laettner and center Sean Rooks to the Atlanta Hawks for guard Spud Webb and center Andrew Lang.

The deal sends Laettner, the third overall pick in the 1992 draft, who was averaging 18 points and seven rebounds per game this season, from one of the NBA's worst teams to a playoff contender.

Laettner led Duke to two national championships in college, but never achieved the same success in the pros with the Wolves, who have lost an average of 60 games the past three seasons.

Rooks, who started 70 games last year, had been relegated to bench duty this season.

(Reuters)

A-G won't indict Ben-Eliezer

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair yesterday decided not to indict Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer for improper use of ministry funds, but sharply criticized the minister's behavior.

The police had investigated Ben-Eliezer regarding two separate affairs. One, revealed in the 1994 State Comptroller's Report, dealt with Ben-Eliezer's habit of promising money to towns he was visiting, and then, because his ministry did not have funding to fulfill these promises, canceling grants which had already been promised to other towns to raise the money. These changes were made without explanation and without consulting the ministry's professional staff.

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat found that most of the beneficiaries were towns headed by mayors belonging to Ben-Eliezer's own Labor Party, while most of the losers were governed by Likud mayors. This, she said, raised the suspicion that Ben-Eliezer was abusing his position for party purposes.

The second affair involved the election of the head of the Union

EVELYN GORDON

of Local Authorities in January 1994. Three days before the election, the Arab local council heads made a deal to support Labor candidate Adi Eldar, in exchange for his promise to work for extra funding for their towns.

One day later, Ben-Eliezer - who was running Eldar's campaign - toured six Arab towns and promised substantial budget increases to four of them. Iksal, Dabburiya, Yafia, and Ein Mahil were each promised NIS 1 million, up from NIS 540,000, NIS 420,000, NIS 720,000 and NIS 510,000 respectively. The suspicion was therefore raised that Ben-Eliezer had been engaged in election bribery.

Regarding the first affair, Ben-Yair found that Ben-Eliezer's promises had in fact violated official ministry procedure, since they had not been the result of professional staff work and met no obvious criteria.

"There is a serious deviation from proper administrative conduct here," he wrote. "A hasty decision on the spot cannot be a substitute for orderly staff work.

There was also a conspicuous lack of knowledge of ministry procedures... on the part of both the professionals and the politicians."

However, he said, Ben-Eliezer could not be charged with fraud or breach of trust, because these crimes require the victim to know he was committing a crime, and there is no proof that Ben-Eliezer was aware of this. Furthermore, Ben-Eliezer did not appear to have benefited personally from his actions, Ben-Yair said.

Regarding the second case, Ben-Yair found no evidence that Ben-Eliezer's grants were related to Eldar's agreement with the Arab mayors, particularly since Ben-Eliezer made a habit of promising towns he visited extra funds.

"However, there was a violation of the principles of proper governance," Ben-Yair concluded. "A method of work whereby the minister decides on the spot, in the course of a visit, to increase budgets by very large amounts, sometimes to the point of doubling the town's budget, is inappropriate. This raises suspicions of unfairness and arbitrariness."



Former president Yitzhak Navon (right) convenes the commission investigating the Ethiopian blood scandal yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Navon Commission gets under way

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE first public session of the Navon Commission looking into the issue of discarding blood from Ethiopian donors will convene on Monday in Jerusalem.

Members of the committee, headed by former president Yitzhak Navon, yesterday held a closed session to discuss procedural matters.

The commission was appointed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres following last month's violent demonstration by members of the community, when news leaked that blood donations from Ethio-

pian immigrants were not being used, on the grounds there was a high risk they were HIV positive. The commission's mandate empowers it to also explore the social implications of the issue.

Navon said later that it is not up to the commission to decide whether those found responsible should be fired. "We will not discuss dismissals. We'll study all aspects of the subject," he said. "We shall treat the issue with great sensitivity, bearing in mind

the blow dealt to the honor of this community which made aliya in such an extraordinary way."

He said the recommendations would be presented to Peres within a few weeks.

The commission will hear testimony at its first session from Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban, representatives of the Jewish Agency, and researchers. Later, epidemiologists and hematologists will testify, as will representatives of the Health Ministry and the Central Blood Bank.

Meanwhile, the High Court of Justice is expected to rule on Tuesday on a petition by blood bank director Dr. Amnon Ben-David against the presence on the commission of Addisu Messala, head of the Unified Ethiopian Immigrants' Organization. Messala went on record calling for Ben-David's dismissal, saying he was responsible for the policy to discard the blood. Messala yesterday refused to comment on this.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Warmer than usual. Shabbat: Decline in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Notes
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Berlin	10	15	cloudy
Brussels	10	15	cloudy
Chicago	10	15	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	15	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	10	15	cloudy
London	10	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	10	15	cloudy
Madrid	10	15	cloudy
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
New York	10	15	cloudy
Paris	10	15	cloudy
Rome	10	15	cloudy
Tokyo	10	15	cloudy
Vienna	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	cloudy

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